

New. Land. Standen to the Sea!

Barrow on the 13th 1821
39

Rec'd July 30/21

Perd & Dear Sir!

Rec'd Aug. 20/21.

Com. Aug. 13/21.

I have forwarded the last letters I received from the Rev. J. Gutter & Mr. William Hall, from which you will see that all is quiet at New Zealand. At the same time the different whalers greatly distress the settlement by purchasing every kind of provisions from the natives with muskets and powder. It is much to be lamented, that this nefarious practice cannot be prevented. Animal food was very scarce when I was there on this account - I think not much less than 2000 Hogs were sent on board the different ships when I was there. The miserable settlement, will never be comfortable till they raise all the provisions they want; and make themselves independent of the natives in this respect - when Capt. Skinner had completed his cargo, he had ten working sleds to dispose of, as he could not take them

back with him to Port Jackson for want
of Commerce I knew they would be of
infinite importance to the Settlement
in agriculture, and in bringing in Timber
&c. for the buildings - I therefore informed
Capt. Skinner, that I would return them
in kind, or pay Government a fair price
for them when we arrived in N. S. Wales,
supposing that no Advantage would be
taken by the Government. The Mellocks
were accordingly left, when we returned,
Government wanted Mellocks of a much
superior value than those left at New
Iceland - I offered to return them in kind,
and equally as good as those left by Capt.
Skinner - but Major Drutt would not
allow me to purchase the Cattle from
any individual but ^{at} Mr. Thursty. I knew
if I was compelled to purchase them
from him, an unfair advantage
would be taken, and therefore refused to
do this - Major Drutt purchased them
himself from Mr. Thursty, and drew
upon me a bill for £200. pounds

for the payment of them. I objected to pay this
Bill, because it was more than eighty pounds
more than the butchers were worth, and
wrote to the Governor informing him of this
gross imposition - The Gov^r sent me a letter
in answer by Major Drmitt, but a very angry
one, saying he would order twenty five
pounds to be repaid to me out of the
Police Fund, and if I would not agree to
that he would order an Action to be brought
in the civil Court to recover the money
from the Church Manufacturing Society - In
Answer to which I replied in writing I would
pay the bill, the Governor had reflected on
me for not paying the Bill at the first
without objection - and I would not receive
the twenty five pounds, as a pervert, when
more than eighty had been overcharged, and
say myself as to the Governor's Administration.
These bills were lean cattle - The Average
Price of fat Cattle sold at his Majesty's
Stores for supplying the Colony amounts
only to £ 11. 9. 9. per head - Government
have charged £ 20 per Head for the lean
Cattle - which is a very great imposition,
as all the Colony will admit -

Mr. Morris, who was present when I laid the
bill before the Gentlemen who received it
say, that £80 had been charged more than
their real value. I have written both to Captain
Shannon and the Honorable Commissioners
of Enquiry on this subject. I requested this Account
might be settled before they sailed from the
Colony, and told them both, if it was not
I should have some dispute with the Governor
for attempts would be made to impose, &
to take advantage of the Society from the
great regard that individuals here have
towards the mission. I have inclosed a Statement
from the Dep^y Commissary General, which
is paid at the King's Stores on an average for
but little; and also a note from the magistrate
in the interior who proposes many. Mr. Morris
can explain the whole. I mentioned the circum-
-stance to Major Guelbourn. I told him, you
might perhaps mention it to his brother
the Under Secretary of State. Gov^t ought in
common Justice to refund £80 in some
way or other to the Society. However you will
act as you may deem prudent. The battle
will be of great service at the Settlement and
I have sent over a Garrison to work them
in order to get provisions for the negroes.
Rev. J. Pratt - Garrison's bull-bulls
Wm. Mendenhall

22

Mar. 13/21

Rev. J. Mendenhall