

Rev. Sam. Morrison to the Secy

Parvum at the July 15<sup>th</sup>  
1821

Rev. A. Dear Sir!

Com. Jan. 14/22.

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Rec'd Dec. 26/21  
Ans. Dec. 28/21.

I have learned from the public papers that it is the intention of the Wesleyan Society to send a mission to New Zealand. I do not see the wisdom of their doing this. There is a very large and extensive field unoccupied in the Friendly Islands, which they might have to themselves. I have always wished that the Church missionary Society should have New Zealand for their portion, the Wesleyan Society the Friendly Islands, and the London missionary Society the neighb'ring Islands - and that these three Societies should have a vessel of about 200 Tons to attend upon their missions. I am well aware that in the present state of Society in New South Wales that no missions can be permanently carried on without a vessel, under the control of the Society or their Agent here. and this opinion I have maintained for years. It is not the Savage Tribes that will create the greatest difficulties, but men who are called Christians will from Avarice, or other bad motives, give much trouble. If the natives of the South Sea Islands get into the hands of avaricious unprincipled men, the missions will be greatly tried. The step that was taken, in my absence at New Zealand, by an individual at Port Jackson with respect to the Society Islands, will shew this very clearly - A full account of this Circumstance I sent to the Treasurer & Secretary of the London missionary Society - which Account I should wish

you to see, as it may be of service to all Societies  
who wish to promote the Spread of the Gospel  
amongst the poor Natives in the South Sea Islands -  
I merely recommend the Societies to unite in the support  
of the vessel to defray the Expenses to each. I am of opinion  
that no mission can be established with a Prospect  
of success in any of the South Sea Islands unless the  
Islands are regularly visited by a vessel under  
the Control of the Society - or Societies - merchants  
in general will be so alive to their own Interest that  
the mission will always be with them a secondary  
consideration - upon what plan the Wesleyan  
Committee intend to begin their mission in the  
Friendly Islands I know not. If they establish no  
regular Communication between N.S. vessels and  
their missionaries, the missionaries will not be safe -  
If they rely upon the merchants at Port Jackson  
for keeping up a Communication, who have no  
feeling for the mission, and over whom the Society  
can have no Control <sup>may</sup> evils that they may not  
be prepared to meet will start up in their way  
from the viciousness of the Sailors, the Avarice  
of the masters or owners &c. - If the Societies were  
united in <sup>one</sup> the vessel, they would command great  
means, and great Influence, their very names would  
awe and check the Spirit of Opposition or Avarice,  
which might and would shew itself in this  
Colony - I only submit these Hints to you - men  
of more wisdom, and experience may have

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a very different view of this subject. I feel it my  
Duty to suggest such Ideas as Circumstances have  
created in my mind - I believe all the Islands are  
prepared for the Gospel - The Society Islands have received  
the glad tidings with joy - New Zealand is ready, and  
will thro' the divine blessing receive the Gospel, and so  
will others - I expect some trouble before the Affairs  
are arranged in the Society Islands - If the Westmoreland  
should fail in the object she is gone upon, there will  
be a very heavy Expense incurred - but I am not uneasy  
on this ground. The Head of the Church will provide  
the means for his <sup>our</sup> work - I rely with confidence upon King  
Pernam, paying the whole amount by a Return  
Cargo, tho' the hire for the Freight of the Westmoreland  
and other Expenses will amount to about £3,300 -  
I mentioned in a former Letter that the Active is too  
small for <sup>a</sup>whaling, and that it was my opinion a  
Vessel of about 200 Tons would answer much  
better now for the mission, as such a Vessel  
would be likely, not only to pay her own Expenses  
upon the Coast of New Zealand, but something  
more than that, and if commanded by a  
pious man would be a School for the natives.  
I have recommended Mr. Wendell to remove to  
Shorkee Rangor - There is a very large Field there  
of sweet peas, and the natives very desirous for  
a missionary - This measure would prevent  
any Differences between him, and his Brethren.  
I promised that the Active should take him

and his Family there the next time she came  
to New Zealand if he and his Colleagues approved  
of his removal - I should wish some of them to  
occupy the west side of the River Thames, where  
there is a very great Population - Four Chiefs  
are with me now at Paruruwha from the  
Thames - I shall have to send the Active down  
with them when she returns - They were brought  
here by the Commodore the King's Ship - Perhaps  
the C. M. Society would prefer the plan of acting alone,  
and have no connection with any other body -  
I recommend an union only on the ground of Economy.  
There is not pins keeping enough in this Colony yet, ~~for~~  
to warrant the Society in trusting the concerns of the  
mission into the hands of persons resident here -  
whether the Societies unite, or whether they act  
separately in keeping up a communication with  
their respective missionaries, they must all  
have a vessel under their control or their object  
will be defeated - I have some hope that Pennance  
may eventually give great Assistance in this  
respect if he ~~can~~ <sup>only</sup> get a vessel of a proper  
size - Should the Westmoreland succeed, a great  
step will be gained towards this object - I am  
more afraid of the missions being injured by the  
Inhabitants of N. Y. than all the Sways put  
together - I leave these Points with the Documents  
alluded to, to your Consideration, to receive them or not  
as you may judge best - I remain  
your very faithfully