

Rev. Sam<sup>l</sup> Marsden to the Sec

Parliament at August 1821

Rec Mar 7/22

Rev<sup>d</sup> Dear Sir

Com. Mar. 11/22

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1821

Ans. Apr. 16/22,  
# "Heroine"

This I write to you lately by the Courvoisier  
yet I embrace this opportunity to drop you a line - since my  
last I have received letters from N. Zealand by a vessel  
which was there in April - The missionaries and their families  
were all well - Mr Kendall will have joined them before this  
time - I can assure you Sir it is a very difficult task to manage  
a party of missionaries under any circumstances - They all might  
do well at New Zealand if their contending Popes did not  
prevent them - I enclose you a private letter which I  
received from a Mr Wilson, who has been many years  
a missionary at the Society Islands, and came to N. Z.  
wrote a few myths for the benefit of his health and  
touch'd at the Bay of Islands on his return - you will see  
what is the opinion of our experienced missionary who  
has been about 20 years in the work - I also send you the  
following Extract out of a letter I have received from  
William Hall - you have done well to send John Lee over  
to work the bullocks, but Mr. Prother says great obstacles  
in the way against drawing timber, or yet ploughing the  
ground - He opposed me very violently last Monday at the  
Committee - I shall call a special Committee if I can be  
heard, in order to take into consideration the case of John  
Lee, to certify whether he is to be kept paddling about no body  
knows what, or he is to be employed in working the  
bullocks the work you sent him to do -

I sent John Lee <sup>as</sup> a ploughing man, and who drove the team  
of bullocks at New Zealand when I was there in the  
Evening, and loaded that ship with timber, in



order that he might plough the land, and push forward  
the Concerns of Agriculture, which would soon render the  
missionaries independent of the natives for food - I was afraid  
Mr. Butler would interfere, and create difficulties, and therefore  
I directed that Mr. Francis Hall should have the Direction  
of John Lee - I had taken all the secular Concerns out of the  
Hands of Mr. Butler when I was with them at his own  
Request, and wished him only to attend to his Clerical Duty,  
and the Instruction of the natives, but in no way whatever  
to interfere with the Europeans. Mr. Butler is a man of very  
strong Passions, and very obstinate - has no regular method  
of managing any public Concerns - nor will any Persons  
be comfortable under him from his unwholesome Temper -  
His Habits are not newly acquired, and they are now too  
deep rooted ever to be altered - I am sure those acquainted  
with him in England, must know what I state to be correct -  
I have told him verbally my opinion of his Disposition, and I have  
stated the same to him in writing, and have intreated him to  
act with more Propriety, but my opinion he never will.  
If he would attend entirely to his own Duty he might be  
useful, but as a Superintendent he never will answer -  
The Stores and all the secular Affairs ought to be taken out  
of his Hands entirely - I do not know that he has got  
Possession of the Stores, as I left them under the Charge  
of Mr. Francis Hall, and a more proper man can  
never be found for such a Charge, nor a more amiable  
man for a missionary - He is too far advanced in life  
to learn much of the Language, but he, from his Piety,  
Prudence, and mildness of manners will be a great Stay  
to the mission - It is difficult to find proper men for  
the work, nor can they be known till they are tried



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William Hall is, and has been a very industrious useful man  
very <sup>new</sup> superior to him in beginning a mission - He is a man  
of more natural Ability than any who are there - Mr  
Shepherd is the best in point of learning the native language  
and will prove a valuable missionary - The Spirit of a  
missionary has grown up with him from a boy, and he  
is a young man of good Ability and sound Piety - In worldly  
matters he would have done well in this Colony - but he could  
not rest. He visited the Society Islands and St. Paul and for some  
time before he engaged in the mission - I have no doubt but  
he will do well for his motive is pure, and he understood the  
nature of his work before he engaged in it - It would be  
well if you could meet with a pious man, who understands  
Agriculture - I wish also to submit to the consideration of the  
Society the propriety of allowing the missionaries & Settlers  
a regular Salary equal to provide them with all the necessaries  
of life - I think this Regulation would reduce the Expenses of the  
Society, and prevent many unpleasant Differences about  
their Provisions - Some want a Hog to be cut legs, another  
all Hogs when they come to draw their Water - Some  
want Green & others Black Tea - I never saw any thing to equal  
the Impropriety of the Conduct of some of them in this respect,  
when I was there - I arranged matters with Mr. Kendall  
respecting his Salary, should what I have done meet with the  
Approbation of the Society - Mr. Kendall is to have the  
Sum of £200 per annum from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 1821.  
with this Sum he is to furnish his Family with all  
they want - He is to have no Claim upon the Society's  
Stores for any Provisions or any thing whatsoever -  
whatever Sum of Tea Sugar Soap &c. he draws from  
the Society's Stores, the amount is to be charged against  
his Salary - He is to supply his Family with animal  
Food, Flour and every Article they may want -



If the Society should not approve of this arrangement, it is to be null and void - I have written to all the other missionaries to send their Proposals to the Society, and a Copy to me. when they do this I will forward their Statements to you - and the Committee will consider what would be best to be done - If this Plan can be done, it will prevent much Alteration amongst them, and they will then find it their Interest to take care of what Stores they may have. It is very difficult to get persons to take care of public Property. Under such a System the Society would then know what their annual Expenses would be - If the Society had a farming man to grow Grain for the Settlement, the missionaries would then have to purchase it from the Societys Stores - as well as all their other Supplies - whether the Rev. Mr. Butler would approve of this measure or not I cannot say - Mr. Kendall has 9 Children his wife and himself. I am of Opinion the Society cannot furnish this Family with Provisions, Tea Sugar &c. for £80 per annum - Mr. Kendall will be better satisfied with £200 per annum, and support his Family - However the Committee will consider this Subject -

Should a young woman named Elizabeth Pritchard, of St. Swan Street Church Street Bethnell Green call upon you I will thank you to pay her ten Pounds and charge the same to my Account, informing me you have done so - Her Husband lies at Parramatta - and wishes her to come to him - This sum is to assist her, and to be paid to no other Person - I requested the Rev. Mr. Hill & Captain Irvine to assist as a corresponding Committee, but some difficulties have arisen which I did not foresee, which I shall state at a future period should it be necessary. These wholly relate to the temporal concerns of the Society - I see some danger of increasing the Expenses if their views are indulged - but no Change will be made without the Approbation of your Committee - I am, Sir, your's, affectionately  
Saml. Marsden