

Rev. John Butler & Rev. S. Marsden
To the Rev. Samuel Marsden Ship Westmoreland
Rec^d July 31/22.
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to Mr. Marsden
Sydney Cove Jan 8th 1822
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My Dear Sir.

I have hitherto endeavored to consider you as a Father and as a friend, but the mysterious way in which you have acted, and your conduct towards me of late lead me to draw conclusions of a very different nature. I have learned that when you returned from New Zealand you immediately began to speak evil of me and mine

As a Minister of the Church of God! and a Magistrate of the British Realm to be charged with unfaithfulness or neglect of duty, either the one or the other is a Crime the very thought of which affals my heart and makes my Blood run cold.

However, I have one consolation and that no man taketh from me: that with all diligence and sincerity both mind & men have laboured to forward the objects of the Society and to promote the temporal & eternal happiness of the Heathen among whom we dwell. And I am now ready and prepared to meet every charge, and to give unto all men publicly a full and satisfactory account of every days work & slavery; both of myself and my Wife ever since we have been engaged in the service of the Society. Doubt the Society ere long will be in full possession of these facts, And there are living Witnesses who have seen with their eyes who will bear testimony to their truth. But since you have taken upon you to traduce my Character without any just cause

you must hereafter stand prepared to justify your own
Some things have taken place lately which I think not
altogether right. There are many things which I could mention
but I shall confine myself to a few. You know sir that
some time ago I made Application to the Society for things as
a favor in order to get them as cheap as possible. And I have
a letter from Mr Pratt saying they were sent. These things
arrived, and most of them you have sold at Port Jackson
And those you sent to New Zealand you did not consign
them, but to another, and charged a higher price for them
than was originally done by the Society. Do the Society
indeed wish you (after granting a favor) to put a tax upon it?

Is it worthy of their name and Character, or that of the Christian
World to act thus? I have you ^{not} endeavored to defend
me of my lawfull right (for I cannot call it less) by wishing
at least to charge me with 55 £ of travelling expenses,
altho I was not receiving any salary at the time; and
for which I signed my name, two years & a half ago
and which monies (I have no doubt) have been paid
by the Society long since?

Have you not charged my Son with 19. 16 for Victuals
after agreeing with me for 40 £ p annum and his food?

Did not other monies stand against me which ought not?
Have you not acted quite as bad, by refusing to honor
a just bill which I paid for Timber on account of the Society?

Did you refuse it on account of the Timber being bought with
powder? I think not. Did you not pay Mr Kendall for his
timber bought with powder in kind? Did you not pay
Mr Hall for his timber purchased in the same way?

Did you not yourself buy four large basks off powder and
put them into the Common Stock or store? Did you not
pay away a large Tea Kettle full of powder to Munghe
and half a Gallon to Reiver ^{for powder}? Did you not endeavour
to conceal this Act by not having it entered in the Deeds?

Did you not pay Mr Mr Hall for two Musquets
and 26 lb of powder at one time and 56 lb of powder at another
time, the most of which Mr Hall paid for saving
down for the Society? Did you not purchase a lot of Flax
and potatoes from Wydesdale at Teppoonah with a Musquet?

Did you not afterwards send down 51 Bayonets at one time
17 of which Mr King received as his ration to barter away
to the Natives? Has not the Active Cargo been bought
with these forbidden things have you not received the Cargo

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knowing it to be bought with these things? And have you
not replaced them? Did you not once upon a time employ
Mr Smith to purchase six musquets to barter away amongst the
Natives of New Zealand? I believe these things can be very
easily proved? Did you not say to me with your own
mouth that a Gentleman of one of the Universities had
applied to you for a skull without hair?

Did you not signify your intention to obtain one if
possible? Did you not employ Mr Marshall to go to the
Village at Ranghee too to see if he could obtain such a
thing? Did you not receive a native Head from Saker
and give him an axe? I am sure I saw him with you
and he afterward assured me he had given it to you
and that you had given him an axe which he showed me.

Have you not sold the supplies which were sent
to administer Comfort to the poor Native New Zealanders
you say for want of an Invoice you have done this? What
do the Society or the Christian World expect to be repaid
by the stretched & distressed Heathen? Have you not
sold to the Active Crew the Slops intended for clothe
the Native Servants? And further, have you not even sent
away the Society's slops to Van Diemens Land to be bartered
away for food for the Crew of the Active instead of
forwarding them to New Zealand in order to afford Comfort
to the destitute? Important! My very heart aches
while I put these questions May your Conscience
give an answer as in the sight of a heart searching God.

When these things were fairly represented to the
Christian world; will they would altogether freely?
I have 8 men and three women at work for the Society
and who will expect a new suit of Clothes each
on my Return according to my promise. Am I to
purchase them out of my own little pittance? or must
I forfeit my word and be annoyed by the Natives
calling me deceiver? When I engaged with the
Society did I say to the Society put me into one of
the priest offices that I may eat a piece of bread?
Certainly not.

Now fir I do feel it an
imperative duty as the Clergyman & head of the

Settlement to request that you will furnish me with every thing necessary for establishing a school at Madder Madder as far as the Society have granted you the means. I have informed you that three families of Chiefs have applied to me to take them in. I must request some trade clothing &c. and implements for carrying on agriculture for the benefit of the Mission and of administering comfort to Natives in general.

If you deny this request I shall merely call at New Zealand and take my family on board the Westmoreland and proceed to England.

Should you be inclined to favor it I shall be happy to meet you and consult with you; and as far as I am able point out what those necessities are.

At the same time willing to be guided by those circumstances and to act upon those principles which are most likely to forward the great and blessed work in which we are engaged.

With my warmest prayer
that the Calumny you have cast
upon me may be returned in the
richest blessings ^{of heaven} upon you & yours
I remain in the Bonds of the
Gospel your affectionate Brother

John Butler
J. B.

Jan. 8/22
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Rev. John Butler
to Rev. S. Marsden.