

Francis Hall to Samuel Marsden

Kiddee Kiddee 21 Feb[ruary] 1822

My Dear Sir

The Active being about to Sail on her Whaling Voyage, and as oppertunity [sic] so seldom offers of writing you. I take the present [oppertunity – deleted] of dropping a line by her, least an earlier conveyance, than her return to Port Jackson should not present itself.

The Westmorland came to an Anchor in Tarreah's River on Wednesday the 13 Instant – The Stores are all landed – part here, and part at Ranghee Hoo, with some little loss from the Natives, but much less than might be expected from the Numbers that are assembled for War – Have not had time to arrange the Stores as yet, neither have I been down to Ranghee Hoo, nor to the Westmorland, on Account of the severe indisposition of both M^r & M^{rs} Kemp – which confines me at Home M^r Kendall & M^r Cowell superintended the landing of those at R[anghee] H[oo] – & the Westmorlands Boats br[ough]^t up those for Kiddee Kiddee – I trust they have done the Needful thus far –

I Rec[eive]^d your kind Letters of the 31 Jany and 1 Feby and with pain and Greif [sic] I learn in what [f] manner the Rev^d J. Butler has comported himself – You have nothing to fear from him – You stand on too high ground to be reached by his pigmy shafts they will all recoil upon himself and he will find it out perhaps when it is too late. He has returned the same M^r Butler as he was when he went. How he means to act with respect to the stores p[er] The Westmorland I do not

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know, but most likely in his Usual way – [I] shall oppose him as little as possible, seeing we are likely to be so short a time together – I do not believe that he will leave New Zealand. May God Almighty in mercy change his crooked disposition and make him an useful instrument in his hands of doing good to ~~New Zealand~~ these poor Heathen. With respect to the other Rev^d Gentleman his conduct has been such since his return as would lead us to exclaim with the Prophet “O that mine Head were waters and mine Eyes a fountain of Tears that I might weep night and day.” That our God might not in anger visit us with wrath & indignation for conduct derogatory of Gods Honour, & contrary to the Christian and Missionary Character.

When I wrote you last Shunghee and a great Host had gone to Mogoeah on an Errand of [f] Destruction – They did all the Mischief they promised to do – Poor Enakee they killed and Eat and brought his head away with them, together with a Great Number of His People –

Shunghee is said to have cut off a Chiefs Head and caught the blood in his hands, and drank it. Some were bound hand and foot and thrown into the fire alive &c – Enakee gave them a warmer reception than they expected. Several Chiefs of the Napooies were Slain: amongst whom was Tetty, Son in Law to Shunghee and Apoo his brother – Tetty we are sorry for – he was the best behaved – most civilized, most industrious and ingenious man we have met with in New Zealand –

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When they arrived at Home on the 21 Dec[embe]^r – most of the European men went down to the point to see the Ceremony of their landing – but sorry, very sorry, were we that our Curiosity led us to witness such a Scene of Horror – A small Canoe with the Dead Bodies of Tetty and Apoo first approached the Shore – The other war Canoes & prizes, in all about 40 lay a short distance [f] from Shore – A party of young men landed from the different Canoes to perform the war dance and song usual on their return from fights. They Yelled, and Jumped, and brandished their Muskets & other weapons of war, and the Heads of the Chiefs which they had killed, in the Air, in a shocking manner: but this was but a prelude to the horrid event which was about to take place of which we had no idea – It rained pretty hard as if the Heavens wept at the Cruelties which had & was about to be committed – An awful silence ensued – At length the Canoes moved slowly and came in contact with the Shore – when the widow of Tetty, and other women, rushed down upon the beach in a frenzy of Rage and beat in pieces the carved work at the head of the Canoes with a pole. They then got into a Canoe and dragged several prisoners of war into the water and killed them with the Paddles they row with &c. The frantic widow then proceeded to another Canoe and dragged out a Woman prisoner into the Water and her brains was beat out with a kind of Club with which they pound fern root. We then retired from this Distressing Scene as no interference of ours could have been of any avail; and after we left we learn that [f] Shunghee killed 5 with a sword with his own hand – in

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the whole 9 persons were murdered that day and eat by the Chiefs and people— several were killed on different days afterwards making the Number we believe about 18 that we know of Mr Shepherd & Mr Kemp one day went down to the point to see the remains of Tetty placed in the House built by Shunghee for that purpose there was some cooked Human flesh in baskets and more Cooking of which they were invited to eat by Shunghee who said the flesh was better than pork— They are now preparing a very great Expedition to go against the people of the River Thames & to revenge the Death of Tetty & Apoo, several Hundreds have assembled here from a distance and they and the Napoois will join the Different Tribes in the Bay as soon as their Canoes are ready and will form one of the greatest armaments which has ever taken place at N Zealand—

Mr & Mrs Kemp present their respects to you and Mrs Marsden. They would have been glad to receive a Letter from you if your engagements had permitted it. [f] They are both now very ill— but Mrs K[emp] is we hope in the mending way— Neither of their Healths are likely to remain good in N Zealand— have not been without sickness in the family for several Months. The Doctor of The Westmorland thinks Mr Kemps is an inward Complaint which he is likely to feel the effects of as long as he lives— This and other circumstances but above all his being obliged to mend Musketts at times for his personal Safety, which is very contrary to his wishes— and unpleasant to His feelings. He therefore desires to return to his Native Land the first oppertunity by way of Port Jackson and desires tgo receive

MS. 57/68

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your Sanction to do so please to present my best respects to M^{rs} Marsden and your family –

I remain – D^r Sir

Yours truly

F. Hall