

Copy. Rev. T. Kendall to Rev. J. Marsden July 26. 1822

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Dear Sir
Ack. Aug. 31/22 to Mr. Marsden.

I freely agree with you in the opinion that the
Evangelization of the New Zealanders will not be accomplished
by carnal weapons. War and Bloodshed are also much to
be deplored, and will be so by every pious Christian, wherever
such evils exist in the earth. Now I a Quaker, I should also
say, that the profession, or trade of a Gunsmith is an
unlawful or unchristian one, and that bartering with muskets
or selling them any where, is incompatible with the principles
of the Christian Religion. But we are fallen men, living in a
fallen world: and we well know that men, as they are tempted
by the Devil, and under his dominion, do take delight in
tormenting and destroying each other. Hence even Christians
are under the necessity of providing themselves with weapons of
war. And they pray for victory, and endeavour to obtain
it over their enemies, not indeed for their gratification
but for their preservation, and they are also led to embrace
every fair opportunity of extending their rising power.
Why will you not argue fairly? I confess I am not
a little surprised that you should as agent for this mission,
take a view only of that side of the question, in debate,
in which all good men must agree with you, and at the
same time remain perfectly silent on the other side, where
the propriety & piety of selling muskets and powder to the
natives of New Zealand in preference to savage weapons, can
only be supported and justified. Namely "Weapons of war"
being almost the only medium of exchange at present
between Englishmen and New Zealanders, it therefore must
be desirable to dispose of such weapons, if any, in our
necessary bartering intercourse, if we barter at all, among