

*Samuel Leigh to Samuel Marsden and a copy of a letter from Thomas Kendall*

New Zealand April 4 1822

Rev and Dear Sir

The following is a Copy of a letter I have received from Mr Kendall—

Bay of Islands New Zealand

March 25 1822

Rev Sir

These are to request you to inform the Secretary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society that the Rev. Samuel Leigh has not only settled himself here without obtaining leave from me but is assisting my Colleagues Mess<sup>rs</sup> Hall and King in forming a separate meeting, a place of worship during the time of Divine Service upon the Lords Day. It is impossible for me to Sanction such a measure and permit Mr Leigh to remain quietly in this Settlement which professes itself to be a Church Missionary Establishment being fully persuaded that he can with as much safety settle himself now at his appointed Station as I could at this seven years ago and am

Rev. Sir

Your obed[ien]t Serv[ant]

“Thos Kendall”

Rev. Josiah Pratt

After the Brethren had full proof of the truth of the report respecting Mr Kendall Messrs Hall, King, and Cowell met together to consult each other on the

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subject and Mr Hall wrote Mr K a letter which was corrected by the other two Brethren and sent it to Mr Kendall informing him that they could no longer worship with him until he had either put away the girl or given them Satisfaction that the Charge they made against him was not correct. To this letter Mr K[endall] answered in a way of defiance [sic] and commanded them to attend Service they were [f] not to be his Judges. Messrs Hall and King did not comply. M<sup>r</sup> Cowell has since recanted.

Before the Sabbath arrived Mr Hall requested me to give them a Sermon on the Lords Day in his house as they did not intend to go to the School House to worship. I requested M<sup>r</sup> Hall to excuse me for not complying with his desire, as my situation was only that of a lodger, and as M<sup>r</sup> Kendall might take an advantage of it. Messrs Hall and King then agreed to read the prayers and a Sermon themselves on Sabbath morning. M<sup>r</sup> Hall began the Service by reading prayers in the house at the usual time. M<sup>r</sup> King M<sup>rs</sup> Hall M<sup>rs</sup> Leigh And I were present – At the time Mr Hall was giving out the day of the month and the Psalms for the day M<sup>r</sup> Kendall came in more like a roaring Lion than a Messenger of the Lord and began the Service again. M<sup>r</sup> King withdrew and soon after M<sup>r</sup> Hall followed – I laid down my book and kept my Seat untill [sic] M<sup>r</sup> Kendall had concluded the whole Service with a Sermon and he had retired without saying a word.

The day after M<sup>r</sup> Kendall sent me the letter referred to – In the Service of the Lords day I have not taken any publick [sic] part. I have been requested several

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times by the Brethren at both Settlements to preach to them but have to this day refused knowing among whom I dwell. —

I have heard from white men that if you come to New Zealand the natives will kill you because you have prevented the missionaries from giving them muskets. But this Sir is only the report of white men I have universally found that you are highly esteemed by the New Zealanders and when I informed them you would soon be with them again they rejoiced and said it would be very good. The fallen man here has done all that he can to prejudice the natives against you but they know him too well to believe what he has said to them. I hope God will restore him from his fallen state and bless his cause in an among the noble race of New Zealanders. [f]

You and the Society have great encouragement to go on with the mission I have not a doubt but the Lord will give you to see the fruit of your patience and love Your sufferings have been many on the mission account but Heaven will be your reward. There I have no doubt you will see many New Zealanders who will run up and call you blessed. Go on dear Sir and great will be your reward for success is sure. —

Mrs Leigh gets on well in the language much better than I do however I creep on our work is our delight and in the midst of all we can say the Lord is with us. The God of Jacob is our refuge and in him will we trust and fear not.

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Our stay here will prepare us for a new station – I cannot but think there is a providence in placing us in this place for a time – We are gaining more knowledge of the natives and a little of the language Mr F. Hall has been with us to day and is much grieved with Mr Kendall he cannot visit him and in this I believe he is right

The carpenters have nearly finished with Mr Butler but we are not to have any assistance from them Indeed you know this subject, but how unkind however we must do the best we can we shall have every assistance from Mr W. Hall indeed he has changed his mind with respect to his stay in this Settlement he his [sic] now determined to remove but has not at present determined on the place He is very desirous for us to go together but you know Sir we must be lead [sic] by providence if we can Mr Hall would not object to go to Wangaroo after the war has ended.

I am dear and Rev Sir

Yours &c

Samuel Leigh

Addressed to the

Rev. S. Marsden M.A.

Parramatta