

Samuel Marsden to CMS Secretary Josiah Pratt

Parramatta Sep^r 7th 1822

Revd. & Dr. Sir/

You will have heard of the misconduct of the Revd. T. Kendall long before this reaches you - When I visited N. Zealand the first time after the Settlement was formed, I was convinced in my own mind that Mr. K. was then living in secret Sins, tho' I could not prove it and I mentioned my suspicions to some of his Colleagues - I believed both Carlisle and him were well acquainted with each others Conduct, and on that Account I believed Mr. Kendall had deceived me, when he recommended him so very strongly to my attention. I saw enough of Carlisle to remove him immediately from his Situation; and also saw the dreadful State of mind Mr. Kendall was in. he was petulant, haughty and insubordinate. He wd. not bear to be spoken to without getting into a violent Rage - I learned he spent much time on Board the whalers when they were in the Harbour, and sometimes drank too much with the masters - His School was neglected under a false Pretence that he had not the means [f] to carry it on tho' I had been particular in sending him the Supplies of Rice he had applied to me for - At this time he had carried on much Traffic with the natives for muskets and Powder and with the masters of Vessels, and by his example had induced his Colleagues to do the same. This had brought on amongst them personal Quarrels, to that degree, that they did not assemble together even on the Sabbath for public Worship. Mr. Kendall had also been guilty of Adultry at this time which added to all the other evils than then opposed the mission when I arrived in the General Gates - When I saw all these things I was almost insane -

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I knew not what to do, or how to remedy the dreadful evils - I reprov'd and intreated, was angry, and kind by turns - As the revd J. Butler and his Colleagues had arrived with me, I was in hopes that they would be enabled to introduce a new order of Things - I therefore determin'd to remove Carlisle & Gordon, and to engage the new Missionaries in the most solemn manner to avoid those evils, that others had fallen into, and [f] caused the other missionaries Kendall Hall & King to promise faithfully that they would never disgrace themselves and the Mission by such nefarious Transactions - Rules and Regulations were drawn up for their future Guidance, and approved by the whole Body - I knew Mr Kendall had many good Qualifications as a Missionary, had gain'd a very considerable Knowledge of the Language and had also gain'd the Confidence of the natives, which were all of great importance to the Success of the mission - Things now began to put on once more an hopeful appearance and I flatter'd myself that the Concerns of the mission would go on better - as all had engag'd to do their duty in their respective Situations. We had not been long, before Mr. Butler show'd his violent disposition - dangers now arose from an unexpected Quarter - I was apprehensive that his ungovernable Temper would betray him into some Act of Violence against the natives - I reason'd with him, but to little Purpose. No Reasons however good, will ever change the fixed Habits of men - and Mr. B. has continued the same to the present [f] as far as I know - This is a lamentable Circumstance but, can never be remedied in Mr. B. I was not satisfied with the Conduct of young Mr. Butler, and as his Father had no Authority over him; I

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saw great danger from this young man, from the Intercourse he had with the natives, and that it was absolutely necessary to take him back with me to Port Jackson to prevent his own Ruin and the Consequences that would follow - As a number of Chiefs were returning with me, I thought he would be of infinite advantage to the youths who would live in my House - he might devote himself to the N. Zealand Language while at Parramatta, and also that I could be of great Service to him in improving his mind and giving Instructions for his Conduct both in Civil and savage Society - He was a very uncultivated young man, had been entirely spoiled by his Parents; and under No Subjection - After settling all the affairs of the mission, and reconciling all Parties, I took my leave of the missionaries [f] Bring[ing] with me Carlisle, Gordon & young Mr. Butler - I had every Confidence in Mr. Francis Hall, he is a just man, and one that feareth God - I had no doubt that Mr & Mrs Kemp would do their duty, & Mr and Mrs Wm. Hall - William Hall had erred, but he promised to err no more - On the Revds. J. Butler & Kendall I could not depend - one I was afraid would commit Fornication, and the other would endanger the mission by his violent Temper - When I returned again in the Dromedary to N. Zealand, I found all in Confusion - The Revd. J. Butler had entered into the same Spirit with Mr. Kendall of bartering muskets and Powder with the natives &c &c. Mr. Kendall was embarking for England and nothing but alarm and Guilt and Confusion prevailed. Some had not poluted their Hands with these nefarious Transactions, but had stood their Ground like Christians, at the same time they were in deep distress for the evils which they could not remedy - I now

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remonstrated with Mr. Kendall upon the impropriety of his going to England [f] urged him to wait for the Society's Permission before he took such a Step, and not leave his wife and Children exposed to danger as the[y] would be if he left them - No Arguments had any weight with him. I then sat down & wrote to the Society, and gave it to Mr. Kendall - which Letter I was informed was thrown over board at Sea, after been [sic] read and explained to Shunghee in Mr. Kendall's own way - in order to exasperate Shunghee against me - Shunghee told me of this Letter when he returned to Port Jackson - As you never mentioned receiving this Letter I concluded my Information was correct - I attended upon Captain Monro in his dying Bed at Port Jackson, the Gentleman, with whom Mr. Kendall returned to England, after he came out a second time to these Seas - Monro gave me a very unfavourable Account of Mr Kendall's Conduct on Board his Ship - After Mr Kendall arrived again at Port Jackson I saw he was the same man; and that no dependance could be placed upon his Promises - we had some very unpleasant [f] differences as from his determination to traffic in muskets & Powder - which laid the Foundation for a Quarrel between Captain Irvine and me, and Captain Irvine has never spoken to me since; tho' I gave him no just Cause of offence. Mr. Kendall has been a man of sedentary Habits, too fond of ardent Spirits, and high living, I mean eating much animal Food - These have not tended to mortify the Lusts of the Flesh - and to keep the Body in Subjection - I apprehend from these and other Causes he has long since fallen into the Sin of Fornication, which has lead to all his other misconduct - He is an unhappy man. When he has slept by me in the

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woods in N. Zealand, his mind has been wretched - I have seldom seen a more unhappy Creature - I have often from his misconduct been distressed above measure, and at a Loss what to do - He would take no advice, he would be under no Subordination, but would follow his own will - When I received full evidence of his living in Fornication I then immediately found it my duty to suspend him until [f] the Pleasure of the Society is known, a Copy of my Letter to him I forward by this Conveyance- I have received no answer from him as yet - What step he will take I know not - His fall is matter of the most painful Regret to me, and has caused me much distress, particularly on account of the Mission - He has often misrepresented my Conduct towards him in not supporting him - but there is no meeting the wishes of a man who labours under a guilty Conscience, and who is a Slave to his Fleshly Lusts - he is dissatisfied with himself and with all around him - I have just given you a short Sketch of what has taken Place - You will be more particularly informed by the minutes of the Committee. I need add no more on this painful Subject than forward to you the different Letters I have received from New Zealand - All wd. be well if the Clergy would do their duty -

I remain

Dr & Revd. Sir

Yours affectionately

Sam^l Marsden

Revd. J. Pratt

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