

Samuel Marsden to CMS Secretary Josiah Pratt

[Undated]

Rev^d & Dear Sir

Tho' I lately wrote to you by the Shipley, yet as Captain King of the R[oyal]. N[avy]. Is returning who has been surveying the Coast of New Holland, I drop you a Line by him— A number of Stores have arrived in one of the late Ships for New Zealand but no Letter or other document with them excepting the Custom House papers, stating the Number of packages— I fear the Letters and Invoice are in some of the Cases, and that I shall not receive them for a long time if they go to New Zealand— All the Goods are now in M^r Campbell's Stores, where they must remain for the present. I have advertized the Active for sale— I am in Hopes that the Queen Charlotte which was purchased for the late Pomare, King of Otaheite will be able to do the necessary Service for N. Zealand, unless some Accident happens to her. The high Court of Appeal finally confirmed the Verdict of the Supreme Court in Favour of the late Pomare, this week; which will give the Natives of the South Sea Islands a great idea of British Justice— The Action was for upwards of £1,200 against M^r Eager, who lately came to England— This Cause has been [f] more than 12 months in Court. I have heard nothing from N. Zealand since I wrote last— I should recommend no more Stores to be sent out, until I know how they are going on, and what the Intentions of the Missionaries are— I am happy to say Sir Th[oma]s^s. Brisbane will befriend the cause of Missions generally, and will throw no difficulties in the way— Tho' he is kind and friendly the Spirit of

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Opposition is very bitter in this Colony amongst some of the higher order, who would be thought otherwise— The Secretary of our corresponding Committee was a very dangerous man; and very bitter— I could not have believed, unless I had seen it, that such a wicked Spirit could have shewn itself in any man professing Godliness— I think Mr Kendall did him much injury, and poisoned his mind with false Statements— All I wish from you is, that I may know what my Accusers say if they charge me with doing any thing injurious to the Interest of the Mission, or with making any improper appropriation of the Societys Stores committed to my Care— Captain Irvine said much, when I exchanged some Iron which was not wanted, for some Axes that were wanted— The Iron sold very high and the Axes very cheap— The Bar Iron for 5^d per lb— & the Axes at 8^d per lb.— [f] You will find both these Articles, the former credited and the latter charged in the Account— I shall be always ready to give an Account of my Stewardship when ever I am required to do so— Captain Irvine wrote to one of my Colleagues, as if the Iron was sold and the money improperly appropriated— This was such a Letter as would have made Capⁿ Irvine look very Foolish had it been laid before a Court of Justice— He has wished this Letter returned, but I do not deem it prudent for him to have it— He upon inquiry finds he was wrong; but the keeping this Letter may be a warning to him in future and make him more liberal in his Opinions; and careful in his writings— I am perfectly easy in my mind what the world may say, or think of my Conduct with respect to the Missions. I love the

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Cause, and will not injure it— I am aware reports may reach you which might cause a Suspicion, from the malicious and profane, and more especially from false brethren— The Enemies of the Cause have never proved one single improper Act of mine in the Concerns of the Mission to this day— and I trust they never will— You will learn I am out of the magistracy again— Captain King can explain the Cause as he was in the Spot— This will make some noise at Home with those in Authority— I am on good Terms with the Governor, who has always been very attentive to me, for which I am [f] thankful. I shall not enter into particulars; suffice it to say it will turn out for good in the End. I am sorry to say D^r Douglass has disappointed me much in the opinion I had formed of him— Men's Sins will surely find them out— I need say nothing respecting the Missionaries at the Islands of N. Zealand— You will have from their own Letters all the Information I could give— The Cause will go on, in spite of Satan and all his Agents— I think I mentioned, we had several New Zealanders at Parramatta— They are coming at all opportunities, by which means they gradually learn our Language, and become acquainted with our Manners— Should a favourable opportunity offer I purpose to visit them again in N. Zealand— and to see what they are doing— Tho' some of the present Missionaries are very improper Persons for the work, yet they are such as divine Providence has thought proper to employ for some good End which we may not see at present— The wheat and Tares both grow together [sic]— The Husbandman grieves to see the tares, but he cannot help it— The Mission is God's

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Cause, and he will take Care of it— I have requested Captain King to call upon you— he will give you any Information in his Power — I have to thank the Society for the Rev^d C. Simeons works— A more acceptable Present I could not have received— I am yours affectionately

S, Marsden

Rev^d J. Pratt