

Barrenwater April 19<sup>th</sup>

Dear Sir!

Com. Oct. 31/23

1823

93

Albion

Ship Oct 13/23

Arr. Nov. 13/23

His Majesty's Brig the "Satellite" arrived this day from St. Helena, she touched at the Bay of Islands, and brought a letter from Mr. Rendell all to the Rev. J. Nassall, a copy of which I inclose - I thought, as the "Venerable" sails direct for England it would be some satisfaction to you, to have some information - I conclude all the missionaries are well, tho' I have not received any letter as yet from them - Mr. Rendell's letter to Mr. Nassall is of a singular nature. I am not much mistaken, his motive for writing in such a style, is to find some apology for living in adultery - He means to say in plain language, according to my opinion of what he has stated, that by prying into the obscure mysteries of the natives in order to ascertain their notions of the Supreme Being &c. &c. his own mind was polluted; his natural corruptions excited, & his vile passions inflamed, by which means he fell into their vices - This Idea is strongly, tho' covertly, implied in one Paragraph particularly, which I have marked, at the same time I cannot but draw this inference from the whole tenor of his letter - You may perhaps view it in a more favourable light - whatever debasing effect may have been produced upon Mr. Rendell's mind by his Encumbrance into the obscure notions entertained by the natives, and their our lascivious customs, I am of opinion

Opinion, that whenever we come to the true  
Knowledge of the Character of the New Zealanders  
they will not be found much worse than the  
ancient Heathens, mentioned by St. Paul in  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Chap<sup>r</sup> of R. who changed the glory of the  
incorruptible God, into an Image like to corrup-  
tible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts and  
creeping things" -

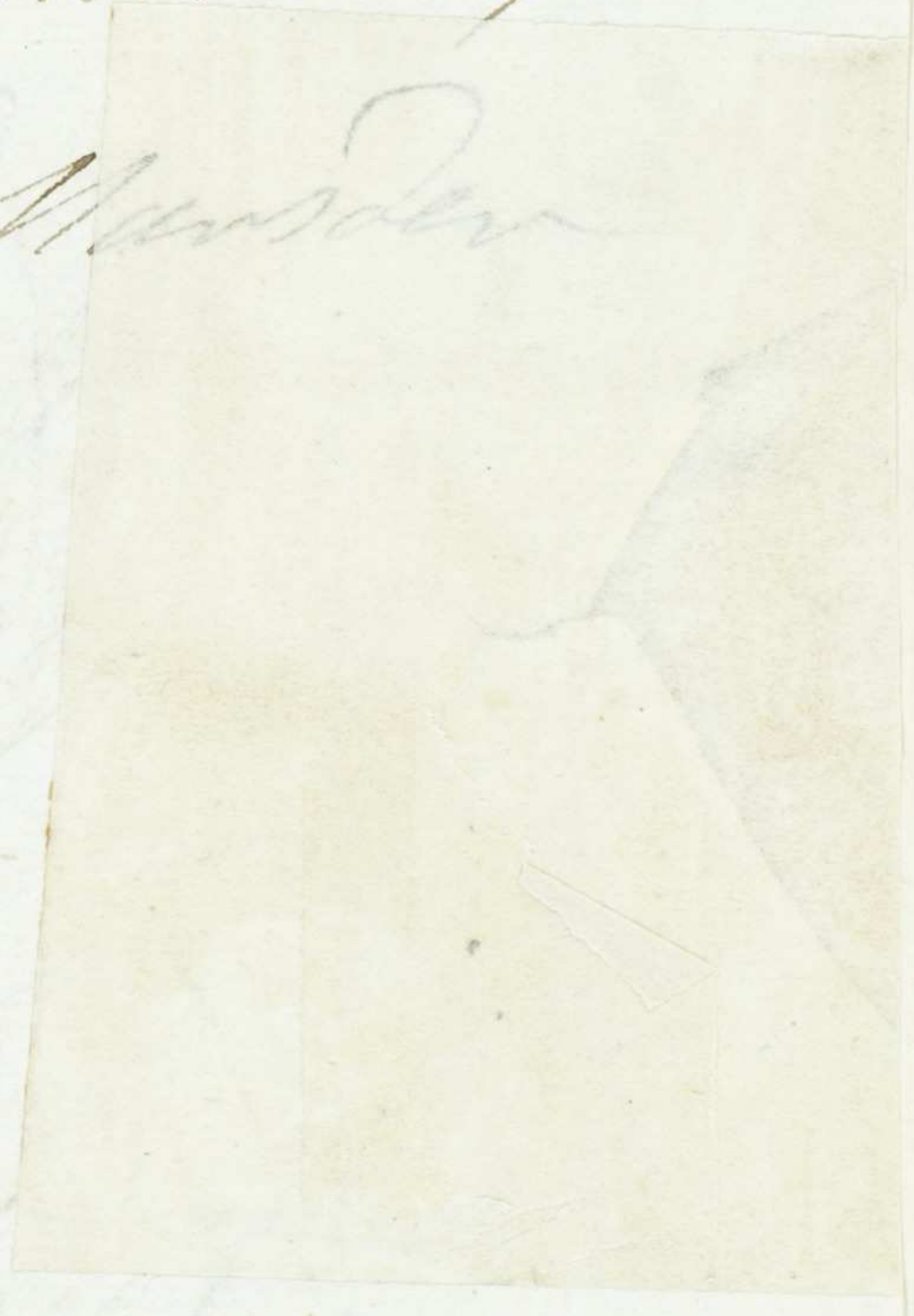
I consider the whole of M<sup>r</sup>. Kendall's letter a master  
piece of Subtlety; a letter which few men would  
have <sup>had</sup> assurance to have written in his Circumstances.  
He takes no notice of his own improper Conduct,  
of his being dismissed from the mission. He  
expresses no Contrition for his Crimes, no Humi-  
lity of mind, no wish to return from his  
backslidings - A stranger reading this letter,  
would suppose that he was in the Confidence  
and Esteem of the Society; in the actual  
Discharge of his Public Duty as a missionary,  
and doing all in his Power to promote the  
good of the Heathen - M<sup>r</sup>. Kendall was well  
aware this letter would be put into my hands  
by M<sup>r</sup>. Nassall - he might think it possible that  
I should not discover the Spirit under which he  
wrote, and by that means I might be induced to  
interest myself on his behalf against from his  
great Exertions - Had I seen any signs of  
Penitence, had he expressed any deep sense

of the exceeding sinfulness of sin I should have rejoiced - The whole that he has stated in my view may be summed up in the words of Eve, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat"

Should you view his conduct in a different light you will excuse the freedom with which I have expressed my sentiments - As he will no doubt continue to write to you, for the present his statements will require to be nicely examined in order to ascertain his real motives

I remain  
Rev'd Dear Sir  
Yours affectionately  
Samuel Marsden

Rev'd G. Pratt



Rev. J. Pratt  
Missionary Guard  
Secretary of Peace  
London

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Missionary Guard  
Secretary of Peace  
London

MAIL  
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Rev. J. H. Mason

Rev. J. H. Mason  
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