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Thurs Jan. 25/24

Par run at 12 July 12 - 1823

Com. Jan. 27/24 Dear Sir!

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Ans. Mar. 18/24

As I know of no Ecclesiastical Authority which has Jurisdiction over these Settlements, I have often been greatly at a loss to know how to act in many things that have occurred in this Colony for the last 30 years relative to the established Church. I have been much perplexed for some time relative to the baptizing the Children of the private Converts who are unborn in the Factory - This is a new Difficulty, and how to remove it I know not, without Reference to those in Authority at Home. I am always unwilling to complain to the higher Powers, if this can be avoided. I have had several Conversations with His Excellency Sir Thos. Brisbane on this Subject have written officially, and privately to him - His Excellency accords with me in opinion, but at the same time he does not remedy the evil - I have now written to the Bishop of London, and

have sent all the Documents open for  
your Inspection - There are nearly two hundred  
womers in the Factory at this time; and  
Children who want Christening - I do not  
see what the civil magistrate has to do with  
the Duty of the Clergy - This is merely done  
to annoy, and distress - Dr. Douglas has  
behaved very ill - I did expect much assistance  
from him when he arrived in the  
Colony, as I considered him at that time  
a moral man at least - I never have  
been so much disappointed in any man  
as I have been in him - His Reign cannot  
be long - Sir J. Brisbane is a mild and  
pleasant man - His natural Disposition  
is so gentle, that he is liable to be imposed  
upon by wicked and designing men -  
His Excellency, in his private note observes to  
me that that as Dr. Douglas has the  
Charge of the womers in the Factory, the  
Responsibility rests with him - I say no -  
The Governor cannot delegate his power  
to a magistrate, to prevent the Clergy  
from doing their Duty. However such  
is the opinion of the Governor -

If you should think it imprudent to lay these Documents before the Bishop of London for his opinion upon them, I will thank you to act as you may deem best - some thing must be done - I have mentioned the Subject to both the Judges - and nothing can be done here, unless the Governor would interfere - I know a very great public sensation will be excited, should a Child die uncaptiz'd, and Christian Annual refused to it on that Account -

[I have also written to His Lordship a Statement of the want of Clergy, which I have laid before the Governor, and which he has promised to second by His Excellency's Representatives to His Majesty's Ministers - we have one very great Enemy to the Gospel who will oppose the increase of Gospel ministers as much as he can - We had Mr. Papall who is a very pious man, has received no appointment yet, tho' the Settlements are so much in want of Clergy - I applied to the Governor, and he express'd every wish to serve Mr. Papall, but he did not like to give him an acting order - Mr. Papall

has officiated every Sabbath since his arrival  
in various Settlements, but has received no  
Salary - He will do my duty during my  
Absence - Should I bring over with me a  
number of native youths from the  
Island I purpose to place them under  
the care of the Rev. Mr. Gifford - Should  
he not succeed in obtaining an Appointment  
as one of the Chaplains of the Colony -  
Perhaps the Society for the Propagation  
of the Gospel in foreign Parts might  
be induced to extend their Patronage to  
him, if they were made acquainted  
with the real state of these Settlements  
where so many thousands of British  
Subjects are in want of the public  
Ordinances of Religion - I shall leave all  
these subjects to your Consideration - Should  
you deem them worthy to be mentioned  
to the Committee of the B. M. S. I  
will thank you to do so - I have also  
sent some Documents to Mr. Jay for  
the Society's Committee - containing my  
Letter to Dr. Douglass and his answer - This  
Letter when written was never intended  
to be sent out of the Colony - as I thought  
Dr. Douglass would comply with my wishes

I urged the Government to allow the wages to come to Copenhagen, but the letter was to Douglas  
Mr. Gifford's health is such that I cannot afford to send him to the Colonies