

Paternoster Valley, Bay of Islands³
 August the 9th 1823.

Pres.^d Saml. Marsden,

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Rev.^d Sir,

Ever since my first departure from New South Wales for this Island in the Brig Active, I have been in consequence of the peculiar difficulties of my situation, the natural perverseness of my disposition, and various other causes frequently passing thro' scenes of sorrow. I have no less than six times been on the brink of Eternity. I have been very frequently thwarted in my course, yet in the midst of all this I have never yet entertained one secret wish to desert the service of the Society: and I can say with strict adherence to truth, that my earnest desire to promote the temporal, spiritual, and eternal interests of the Nation has been, except in my darkest moments, the same from the time I first saw you in London which was about sixteen years ago to the present hour. I have it is true, been sorely oppressed and brought down by domestic troubles, and by the temptations of my great adversary the Devil, who hating the cause of the Redeemer, has always been harassing and tormenting me, and has been permitted to my own sorrow, and I am sure to the sorrow of my many friends in England &c. to obtain a temporary triumph over me. But do you think Sir that, that subtle deceiver will now triumph left by this decision of the Society, by which I am as far as they are concerned completely driven