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Nov. 2

Thurs July 3/24

Bay of Islands New Zealand

23 Aug^r 1823

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To Rev^d Sam^l Marsden

Rev^d Sir,

As you requested me at a committee held at Ranghi Hoo on Aug^r 11 to state my reasons for not uniting with the brethren in the public ordinance of religion I will freely answer you For some time after my arrival in New Zealand I attended the weekly meetings of the settlers at Ranghi Hoo but finding so much discord and want of Charity prevailing amongst us I could not with any degree of comfort continue my attendance. After the suspension of the Rev^d Tho^s Kendall I did not join with the settlers in their worship on the sabbath day as I considered they were not authorized to conduct it any more than myself I esteemed Mr Kendall and worshipped with him purely from religious motives being satisfied Mr Kendall was at that time a sincere penitent and was mourning for his past error was I to turn a deaf ear to his mourning and say stand off I am more holy than you. No Sir I took St Paul for my guide where he says if a brother falls restore such an one in the spirit of meekness &c With respect to attending the ministry of the Rev^d John Butler when he occasionally visited Ranghi Hoo I did so until I was fully aware that his walk and conversation was not according to the gospel of Christ he has been guilty Sir to my own knowledge of some gross acts of sin I have seen him Drunk I have heard him utter scurrilous language respecting your family in public

on board of the ship Westmoreland. How could
I then show any preference to his ministry

I am Rev^d Sir

Your Obed^t Servant

John Cowell

Aug. 20/1723.

Mr. John Cowell

Rev. J. Marsden.

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