

Cris. June 22/24

Bay of Islands 20th Sept 1823.

Dear Sir

As it is probable that a letter may reach you from New Zealand, before I can write to you from New South Wales I have judged it prudent to drop you a few lines - I sailed from Port Jackson on the 29th of July 23 in the *Isarupter* - with the Rev. P. Williams & family we arrived in the Bay of Islands on Monday Aug. 5th I found the missionaries all well in health - The Rev. J. Kendall had separated from the Rest, and was living about nine miles from Kangaroo - Shortly after my arrival I had an interview with him - He then expressed his determination to remain in the Island - He appeared to be in a very unsettled, as well as wretched state of mind - I found that his conduct had been very immoral, which he admitted - I considered him a lost man as far as concerned the mission - After some days he consented to return with me to Port Jackson - I took a passage for him & his family in the *Isarupter*, and when the ship was ready they all embarked - on Monday the 20th of Sept. we attempted to get out of the Harbour - There was a strong gale from the East - we working at the ship's rigger's stays, and was driven amongst the rocks, where she was wrecked - no lives were lost, tho' our situation was very awful - This was a very distressing calamity to all - The bottom of the vessel was soon beat out, so that we had no papers aboard

returning in the Brampton. There was no other vessel
in the Harbour, nor none expected for some time -
In a few days we were all landed again with our baggage
as the vessel did not go to Pieces - we met with
no loss excepting the Ship - The natives behaved
exceeding well - and did not take from us the smallest
Article - upon the whole it was a marvellous Ship -
wreck. I shall send you the particulars from N. S. Wales.
I had also Mr. Corwell & Varnity on board - The whole
number under my Charge were 16. Europeans, &
12 Natives - we have had a very anxious time -
I am sorry to say, Mr. Corwell has acted, as I thought
he would do before he left the Colony - To say the
least, he is an extremely inactive man - and ~~totally~~
totally unfit for a missionary in every respect -
a perfect Drone in the Hive - I think I never knew a
man so completely idle - I had many Differences with
him at Port Jackson on Account of his Idleness, and
Expenses - but at one time he had his Friends in the
Corresponding Committee, which gave him an
Advantage over me - I shall leave him to himself
when he once lands in N. S. Wales - Mr. Kendall admits
he was wrong in bartering with the natives for
their Property with muskets and Gunpowder -
All the missionaries have grief up that Barter
now, and are convinced of the evil of it - The Chiefs
do not expect to receive either muskets or Powder
from the missionaries - They know it is contrary
to their Instructions - This Barter had a very
prejudicial Effect upon the Chiefs of the

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Distant parts of the Island who were not able to procure muskets - They complained much to me of the missionaries for selling muskets; and when they have been brought Prisoners of war to the missionary Settlement, they have made the same Complaint - on my arrival I found the missionaries had fallen into another serious Error. Some of them had purchased Provisions from the natives with Dollars - many of the natives applied to me for Dollars - I saw this evil would be as great as the other, as this would furnish the natives with the means of purchasing muskets either from the Ships, or Port Jackson - I enjoined upon the missionaries not to pay for any thing in Dollars. If they can get our Silver, the natives will never take our Iron - The missionaries are under no necessity of doing this - They want for nothing - no persons can have more of the comforts of this life than they enjoy - The difficulties the missionaries have met with in New Zealand, have originated from amongst themselves; from their perverse tempers, their pride, Envy, and a secular Spirit - There was no subordination, no union of sentiment, no co-operation, no regular system of action - Every one did what was right in his own Eyes; and most neglected the work of the mission - There are some pious and sincere - and wish to promote the object of the mission; but these were overpowered by the ill tempers, or opposition of others -

when men will not do their duty, it is best to dismiss
them at once - because they are an Hindrance to those
that would - I have endeavoured to arrange the concerns of
the mission as well as I am able. And I hope they
will as a body go on much better - Mr. & Mrs. Kemp
are very choice people - when Miss^{rs} Kendall & Corwell
are removed, I think others will act with more
propriety - I have put what restrictions I could upon
the Expenditure of the public Stores - A proper value
has not been put upon them by the missionaries - They
would have thought more of them, had they returned
for them - I shall set what schools I can or foot while
I am here - The natives generally behave well, and
are ready for instruction - There can be no doubt of
the final success of the mission if those employed in
the work will only do their duty - The Rev. G. Williams
I think will set them an example - I have placed
him by himself in a good situation; where his
colleagues can neither influence the minds of the
natives, nor throw many difficulties in his way
I could have wished to have placed Mr. Kemp, with
him; but he cannot be spared from Kidder Kidder
Shanghae is at the further end of war - when I shall
have an opportunity to return Home I know not -
I am detained here for some wise End, which I
cannot see at present - when I return Home I
will send you my Journal, which will give
you a fuller Idea - what has been done, and is
now doing - from the above the Committee will
learn that all is safe and quiet, and that the fault
is in our own People. -

Rev. J. Proutt
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I remain,
your affectionary,
servant
Saml. Morrison.