

George Clarke to Edward Bickersteth

Paramatta. New South Wales

1822

Revnd & Dear Sir.

An opportunity has at length arrived of giving you some of the particulars of the remaining part of our Voyage, from Rio Janairo to New South Wales.

We took our final leave of Rio on the 27th of June, stopping only 6 days at that place. M^{rs} Clarke is in a great Measure recovered, having been on shore 5 days. — The voyage from Rio to the Latitude and Longitude of the Cape of Good Hope has been very pleasant; we have been able to have Service on board every Sunday during that part of the voyage, but from the Cape of Good [^]Hope to Van Deimens - Land; we have had terrible [?] weather, and sometimes we have been deprived of the public worship of God on the Sunday; but this have been rarely the case for if there was any possibility of Sitting or standing securely, I made it a rule to go down into the steerage for the purpose of divine service,. — We Anchored in the River Derwent opposite Hobart - Town, Van-Deimans - Land on the 10th of September after a Voyage of near 5 months. — During my stay at Van Deimens, I had every Mash [?] of attention paid to me by the most respectable inhabitants of that place. I had an interview with the Lieutenant Governor who kindly offered me what assistance he could, [^]he sent letters of introduction to those places I was disposed to visit, for the purpose of collecting the prisoners together for divine service, there being many places where they had not divine service in any way twice in the year, he expressed a wish that the society [^]send would [^]send Missionaries here [f] for here are many

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perishing for lack of knowledge, during my continuance there, I visited the Jail and penitentiary and gave the prisoners a short address, for when I saw the poor creatures so destitute of the means of Grace, so unconcerned about their best interests my Spirit was in a measure stressed within me and I thought there could not be any^{no} inconsistency in my collecting my fellow creatures together to declare to them the word of light and life, which I did as often as circumstances would permit; as you will see by my journal which your will receive by the next vessel that sail for England. — We left Van Deimens Land on Sunday the 6th of October 1822 and arrived at Port Jackson on Wednesday the 16th after a tedious voyage of ten days. Thus by the goodness and Mercy of God we are brought safely to the desired haven in good state of health without meeting with any loss of lives, with the exception of an infant that died on the voyage, of that we may ever be disposed to praise the Lord for his goodness; and for his wonderful works to us, the Children of town [?taped over] — We are now residing with M^r Marsden at Paramatta till we hear from New Zealand, which we are now daily expecting, we are instructions the New Zealanders who are with M^r Marsden to read; M^r Marsden has two Owhyheean's [Hawaiians] with him Who came also under our tuition, (We are here treated with parental kindness and enjoy the prayers and instruction of that eminent servant of Christ (Marsden). M^{rs} Clarke joins with me in kind regards, to you & M^{rs} Bickersteth

Yours Obedient

George. Clarke

PS Our kind regards to M^r Pratt and M^r Coats —