

Thurs June 25/24

Prayer Attainment
New South Wales bet 21st 1823

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Recd and dear Sir

My continuance in New South Wales appears mysterious not only to me but to many of my friends also. Mr Macarthur has used every means consistent with his views of us, to remove us to our intended destination, but his plans have hitherto been abortive.

Mr Williams waited for us four Months, after his arrival at New South Wales, and we had made every preparation to leave the present scene of labour, by the first vessel that might offer itself for New Zealand, but it pleased God again to thwart all our plans by a long and painful affliction of Mrs Clarke, in a case which baffled the skill of the Surgeon, and for a long time led us to despair of her life; however the father of all our mercies, again raised her from the brink of the grave, and on the 29th June made her the Mother of a living child.

The affliction we found peculiarly trying being obliged to remove Mrs C from the Water Settlement to Parramatta, a distance of about fourteen Miles, - and I left with the weight of an infant Mission upon me to provide for twelve children, with two services on the Sunday

amongst European Prisoners, and often had to ride
150 Miles on horseback during the week; but blessed
be God who always causes us to triumph, I never
found his promise to fail. For as my day so was
my strength, for although I have but a moderate
constitution, yet amidst my labours I enjoyed a
good degree of health.

Respecting my labours amongst the Aborigines
of New South Wales. I will say but little, the Nations
are, I verily believe, the poorest objects on the whole
habitable globe. I have seen the Miserable African
just come from the holds of the Slave Ships, but
they do not equal in wretchedness and misery
the New Hollander, and to enter into detail of
their habits, and Customs would not only be tedious
but exceedingly offensive. However I have in great
measure been the means of doing away some of that
Prejudice excited in their minds, by the Heathenish conduct of
those around them, ^{who} calling themselves Christians; and
I have the pleasure of seeing ten or eleven regularly
attend the service here on the Lord's Day - and as
they can all of them understand a considerable part
of the English Language, and have the Gospel made known
to them, it would be infidelity in me, to doubt
whether the Gospel could still be the power of
God to their salvation. It must be allowed that
there are great difficulties in the way to their
conversion, or civilization, so there are to the conversion
of any poor sinner, but that which is impossible
with man is possible with God, the work is Gods
and in his own good pleasure he will bring it to
pass, From what God has done for the Aborigines

of New South Wales, notwithstanding much opposition from sons of Babel, I am greatly inclined to think that the set time to favour them is not far distant.

When I first took charge of the Aboriginal Institution the foundation of a Mission House was not laid. The work was altogether to begin: but now, although I have been here but some months we have got a commodious Mission House, room sufficient to accommodate, at least, sixty children - has not God already wrought wonders for his glory? would he have put into the heart of the Governor to have spent several hundred pounds for the cause, if he had not designs of Mercy for the poor heathen here? would he have thwarted the plans of his aged servant, (our dear friend Mr. Marsden) by detaining us here so long, though we longed earnestly to go to New Zealand? if I had not something in reserve for this long neglected race of Manikins that is but one step beyond the brute that ferrets in appearance; it does not to me appear presumptuous to say no; ere long the New Hollanders shall stretch out his hand unto God.

I have now under my tuition eleven children, in my last letter I mentioned twelve, but since then one very promising little boy has died, I have equally the same hope of them as I should of as many European children, - In my next letter I hope to have the pleasure of informing you that our number of children will be vastly augmented. we have been so pressed on every side, that we

have not had the opportunity of travelling in
order to collect children; beside we have not had where
to put them till very lately.

I have not regularly kept a public journal
since in New South Wales expecting till very lately
to be called to New Zealand, but have not been
unmindful of the dealings of God with me in
this distant land. My usefulness I find very much
depends upon my living near to God, my prayer is
that I may be fettered by his grace and daily walk
with him. The awful fall of fellow labourer
points out the necessity of watchfulness and prayer,
I deeply sympathize with you and the committee
under such severe trials of your faith and patience
and mourn that the the Enemy has had cause
to blaspheme, and the name of God so dishonoured,
and do hope it will lead one, and all, of us to
regard the warning voice of Paul "let him that
thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall"
My prayer is that I may be preserved from falling
so as never to give your committee one painful
hour on my account. Nor bring disgrace on the
religion I profess.

Mrs Clarke unites with me in dutiful
affection to you and Mrs Pratt
George Clarke

As with kind regards to Dear Mr & Mrs Babchitt
whose kind letter I received by Mr Williams.