

Read at con. May 2^d 1808. Apr. 7/08
Rev. J. Marsden to Secretary & Ivy Lane. 1808

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7th April 1808.

① 498 003

Rev. Sir,

In compliance with the request of the Society for Missions to Africa and the East, I respectfully suggest the following Observations, relative to the Establishment of a Mission to the Island of New Zealand. - It may be requisite to state that the New Zealanders are a Nation, who have derived no advantages hitherto either from Commerce or the Arts of Civilization, and therefore must be in that State of Heathen Darkness and Ignorance, in which every Nation must unavoidably be, who has had no connection with the Civil, Religious and Commercial part of Mankind. Tho' the New Zealanders appear to be a very superior People in point of mental Endowments as far as any Judgment can be formed from those with whom the Europeans have had any Communication,

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yet they must not be considered by any means in so favorable a ^{circumstances} situation for the reception of the Gospel, as civilized Nations are, even tho' Strangers to the Doctrines of Divine Revelation. Commerce and the Arts, having a natural Tendency to inculcate industrious and moral Habits, open a way for the introduction of the Gospel, and lay the foundation for its continuance when once received. Since nothing, in my opinion, can pave the way for the Introduction of the Gospel, but Civilization; and that can only be accomplished amongst the Heathens by the Arts; I should for this Reason, recommend that three Mechanics be appointed to make the first attempt, should the Society come to a determination to form an Establishment on New Zealand. One of these ^{men} Missionaries should be a Carpenter; another, a Smith; and a third, a Twine Spinner. The Carpenter would teach them to make a Wheelbarrow, build a Hut, Boat, &c. - The Smith would teach them

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to make all their edge Tools, Nails, &c. - and the Twine
 Spinner would teach them how to spin their Flax or Hemp
 of which their Clothing, Fishing Lines, and Nets are made.
 These Trades would apply to their immediate wants, and
 tend to conciliate their minds, and gain their Confidence.
 Tho' the Missionaries might employ a certain portion of
 of their Time, according to local Circumstances, in
 manual Labour, this neither would nor ought to
 prevent them from constantly endeavoring to instruct
 the Natives in the great Doctrines of the Gospel, and fully
 discharge^{ing} the Duties of Catechists. - The Arts and Religion
 should go together. The attention of the Heathens, can
 only be gained and their vagrant Habits corrected, by
 the Arts. Till their attention is gained, and moral
 and industrious Habits are induced, little or no progress
 can be made in teaching them the Gospel. I do not
 mean that a native should learn to build a Hut or

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make an axe before he should be told any thing of
Man's Fall and Redemption; but that these grand
Subjects should be introduced at every favorable oppor-
tunity, while the Natives are learning any of the simple
Arts. - To preach the Gospel without the aid of the Arts will
never succeed amongst the Heathens for any time.

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Much of the success of a Mission depends upon
the Qualifications of the Persons employed in the Work.

Four Qualifications seem absolutely requisite for a
Missionary: to possess Piety, Industry, Prudence, & Patience.

It will be readily admitted that sound Piety is a real
Essential; that, without this, nothing can be expected, &

Man must feel a lively Interest in the eternal welfare
of the poor Heathens to spur him on to the discharge

of his duty. A Missionary should also be naturally
of an industrious turn; a Man, who could live in any

Country by dint of his own labor, an industrious

Man has great Resources in times of difficulty and Danger in his own mind. Great difficulties will easily be surmounted by an Industrious Man, while very small ones will overwhelm an Idle Man with despair. It is worthy of Remark that in all my observations on Mankind I have rarely ever known an Industrious Man become an Idle one, or an Idle Man Industrious. A Missionary's Habits of Industry ought to be fully established, or he will be found totally unfit for the arduous Work of the Mission, in a Country where nothing has been done before him. [It will also require great Prudence and Circumspection in a Missionary, to govern a Savage Mind, upon which his own very Existence will depend. His difficulties will many of them be new, and much greater, and more numerous than he can possibly imagine or foresee. On this account he will require great patience and perseverance to bear up under them. [The Society

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should have their Missionaries sent out under the sanction of the British Government in England, and with an Official Recommendation from Government to the Governor at New South Wales. From New South Wales they should proceed under the patronage and with a Recommendation from the Governor to the Chief of New Zealand. On their arrival at New Zealand they must place themselves under the protection of the Chief, as they will have no means of forming an independant Body. [A sufficient Sum should be allowed for the Passage of the Missionaries from Port Jackson to New Zealand, provided there were no Vessels going at ^{the} that time they wished to proceed to their Place of destination. - There should also be a certain Sum allowed to pay the Expences of keeping up a regular Correspondence with them for some time, at first, as Circumstances may require. - Their

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Comfort and Safety may depend upon this, till
the real Character and Disposition of the New Zealand
-ers are better known. — A small Vessel from
twenty to thirty Tons would be sufficient for this
Purpose, which must be hired, if a Communication
between the Missionaries and Port Jackson could not
be maintained by any other means. [I should
not conceive that it would be necessary for them
to take much wearing Apparel, or any other Article
of much value]. As whatever they have, as well as
themselves, must be placed under the Protection
and Care of the Chief, the less they possess, and the
safer they will be at first. It is not possible to
know what would be really necessary for them,
till they arrive, and are settled upon the Island.
It would be proper for them to take from Port Jackson
or Norfolk Island, Hogs, Poultry, Grain, and Flour;

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as this would contribute not only to their own Comfort, but likewise would be acceptable to the Chief.

[The ^{points which} above are the most material Objects that occur to me at present. — should any of my Ideas meet

the ~~Approval~~ of the Society I shall feel a peculiar

Gratification in ~~communicating~~ them, and also

in forwarding ^{the} their benevolent Wishes ^{of the Society,} so far as my means and Influence may extend, should

Divine Providence conduct me in Safety again to New South Wales.

[As New Zealand is wholly untried ground, little can be said with certainty respecting the Mission, till an Attempt is made.

I think it highly probable that the Chief will be very anxious to keep up a Communication with Port Jackson, and encourage some of his Subjects to come over for the purposes of

learning our Arts. —

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I have the Honor^u to see

Rev. Sir,

Your most Obedient
humble Servant

Samuel Marsden.

Rev. Josiah Pratt
Secretary S. S.