

A. Wilberforce Esq to Secretary

Read to the Com^o. Feb. 7.

Am^o. Mr. W. Feb. 22. 498 026

No 31 Jan^y. 23/12

Jan^y 23/12

Hens^h Gore Jan^y 23^d. 1812

My dear Sir

My having been extremely engrossed

by other Business, has alone prevented my address-
ing you ere now on a Subject which was first
brought under my Notice by the Report of our

of a last Trip: See 4th Anniversary of
in June last. Let me refer you to the Report

page 25th where you will there see Mr Marden's sugges-
tion of a Vessel to be statedly employed in sailing

between New South Wales & the different
Mand in South Seas as the Idea, on the

tion seemd to me a good one. I therefore

was a great Recommendation of it to me that

Resd Josiah Pratt

498 026

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it was Mr. Marsden - for I have seen a good
deal of that Gentle^{man} of his proceedings, I have formed
a high Conception, both of his Talents for Business
his Unaffected Piety & Worth. On my return
of Neighbourhood of London therefore, the
matter having been mentioned to me by some
friends, more especially by Mr. Mottlock, whose
liberality I daily see, you well know, I was
intimated a disposition to assist in carrying the
plan into Execution, I consulted a few Gentle-
men whom I deemed likely to be useful Assis-
tants in such an Undertaking. I have
not time to enter into particulars but it may
suffice to say, that it appeared on Inquiry
& after Consideration, that solid Objections might

be against forming any Association in this Country
 for executing a plan but that it would probably
 not be difficult to raise among the various
 divisions of the Religious World, such as I am, a sum
 added to what could be obtained in N. S. Wales they
 would suffice for carrying the Scheme into
 effect; those who should subscribe in this
 Country, being exempt from all responsibility
 of the management being left entirely to Mr
 Marsden & such Conductors as he should see
 fit to associate with himself for such a pur-
 pose. My excellent friend Mr. Hardcastle
 approves of this mode of proceeding. He offers
 his good Offices with a great Missionary Soci-
 ety of hopes that it might be prevailed on pro-
 vided the Object would really be effected.

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contribute to it extent of 500, if our Society
would subscribe to it same extent I know

As what is the state of our funds, but
I am persuaded, we should be willing to
thrain a point for such an excellent purpose
as this, where also the expence is not of a
recurring nature, but of contribution is to be made
once for all. Mr Hardcastle seems to think

that if 2000 could be raised in this County, it might
be sufficient in addition to 1500 which Mr A
most liberally indulges the hope of collecting in

St. W. itself - Let me beg you my dear

Sir to lay this subject before of Committee
to which the management of our affairs is intrusted

and to request their most serious con-

sideration of the plan I have taken the liberty

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of propriety They will excuse my brevity if
 if other defects which have arisen from
 me being circumscribed in point of time &
 subjected to repeated interruptions —

I can truly assure you that I should have
 been far better pleased to pursue ~~the~~
 plan which had been suggested by some other
 person than to suggest one myself. But
 having waited in vain in expectation that
 it ~~will~~ be taken up by some other person
 I have at last been led to propose a
 measure myself as I shall wish to
 confer again with Mr Hardcastle, Mr Mot
 lock & will thank you, if you will con-
 sider it as soon as you can do it
 conveniently. I ought to have stated that
 Mr Motlock is departed & died in this Oct.

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casin with his usual liberality

I am begging you if
you see fit, to suggest ^{to me} any alterations or modi-
fications of the plan before you by it before

of summer — My dear Sir

with cordial Esteem & the good.

Yours faithful Servant

W. Wilberforce

At Mr. Harcourt's himself would be a subscri-
ber of 50^l

The Rev^d Jos^h Pratt Secretary to the Society
for Missions to Africa & the East