

J. Fawcett to Josiah Pratt

Stanwix May 3. 1813

My dear Sir

Tho' I do not wish to enter into any question concerning W^m Hall, in any case wherein he may have given indications of a wrong spirit – yet in Justice to him I must explain one or two circumstances in which he seems to labour under misconception [sic] – It was not then from information derived from him that I attach to M^r Marsden the want of attention to him & his companions –

In the letter dated Aug^t 12th 1809 – which I before quoted, after stating the fact that they were to go as servants, all he says is “the Society did not wish to send us out in such an unpromising manner, only there being no other conveyance known of at present” &c – and not a word of blame against M^r Marsden.

It was from another quarter that I understand that this necessity arose entirely from M^r M's inattention: that M^r M. was intrusted by the Society with the care of procuring their passage, which he neglected to do till the Ship was full – [f] If this information was incorrect, I have been mistaken in imputing negligence to M^r M –

I have now before me his last letter dated Nov^r 4. 1811 – which I had mislaid when I wrote to you last – After mentioning the calamity of y^e ship Boyd – he says “I think it is more than probable we shall go yet after a time, God willing. – But what has concerned us most is, that we have had such a fine opportunity for learning the Language of this Colony (he means N. Zealand)

J. Fawcett to Josiah Pratt

and never been able to embrace it, owing to the high prices of victuals and every other article, which requires all our time to be spent in labour to earn a living which immediate necessity calls for" – the opportunity he alludes to is the stay of some New Zealanders at N.S. Wales who were gone at the date of his letter –

This disappointment he does attribute to M^r Marsden; but, without any comment or reflexion, he simply states his belief that the Society w^d [f] have supported them in part but M^r M. interfered and prevented it – He does not say when, but I rather think he means in London, before their leaving England. – I am entering on this subject far more at length than I intended.

I will only add, that you will see from this full statement, that complaints do not come this late before you from him. The account of M^r M's neglect did not come from him at all – & it came to me nearly four years ago and certainly made me more inclined to suspect a similar want of attention now – I have written to him, exhorting him to humility of spirit – to acquiesce in the judgment of his Superiors, and to remember that he is a Settler not a Missionary –

I yesterday preach for the Soc^y at S^t Cuthberts and obtained £30:8:6 & in the afternoon at Scaleby & obtained £3:13:6 – After the sermon at S^t Cuthbert's two persons signified their intention of becoming annual Subscribers –

I had entirely overlooked the change in [f] y^e day of holding your Anniversary, and there fore have not got my Subscriptions collected –

J. Fawcett to Josiah Pratt

I will hasten them as much as possible; but, if they would not be too late for your report, a week or two might add something to the N^o of our Subscribers.

An association has also been formed among the lower orders consisting of 15 members – it has not yet assumed the regular form which I hope it will do in time – it is the beginning we will hope of a greater thing.

I cannot therefore at present say what N^o of Miss^y registers may be wanted, but if you could indulge me with a dozen of each N^o (except the first) already published, & continue to send me that n^o regularly, till I can give you a better account of our proceedings, I think I could employ them to the advantage of the Society – be kind enough to send the first supply as early as possible & to say how much time you can allow me for collecting subscri^{ns} &c.

I am d^r Sr your's most truly

J. Fawcett