

Mr. Tho. Black to Secretary

Kibworth Market Harboro.

Jan 5 1786

498 046

Read at Com: Jan. 31/14.

Ans. Mar. 1/14. of Com. not bet. a subj. before it - that it not take him as Jan 9 14  
absol. under protection - best to go und w/ you. as I letter to N.S.W. - then ready to  
embrace any opp. - asked no of it.

Sir /

When I met you at Leicester on 1<sup>st</sup> ultimo I much regret that I could not then make the observations I am now induced to attempt, in this letter, which I hope you will excuse my troubling you with, as I feel it my duty as a Christian to make them in the hope that they may be sometime, if not immediately beneficial towards the promotion, & extension, of Christianity, & communicating the light & blessings of the gospel to the Children of darkness, which I conceive to be the chief design & object of your most worthy Society. & as I have for a long time entertained the notion, & in my own mind formed a Plan for a Settlement at New Zealand which I cannot persuade myself to abandon without having submitted it to your consideration, yet at the same time I do not disapprove of your kind advice for emigrating to Port Jackson, but still I am for some reasons inclined, to prefer my original project, & am not without hopes that the Missionary Society may entertain a favourable opinion of it, & afford me some encouragement I presume that Mr Kendall wife & children were sent out at the expense of the Society & I was much disappointed, when you told me, they were not gone to New Zealand as intended & stated to be in the Norwich paper, I have read of the horrid transaction you said was the cause of their not proceeding there, & am of opinion that it was in a great measure owing to a want of proper precaution in our people. besides it is worthy of remark, that the Mission took place in the Bay of Islands, inhabited by the most ferocious Tribes, & the most populous part of the Country, who have al-

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= why ~~show~~ a hostile spirit towards visitors, It is therefore my  
humble opinion, that the good intentions of the Society should  
not be retarded by that circumstance, & give me leave to re-  
= fer you to several situations described by Capt. Cook who par-  
= ticularly observes of one in Mercury Bay, which I shall to  
prevent trouble, point out in his own words "If necessary  
for a ship to winter here, or to stay any length of time, tents might  
be built in this place, which is sufficiently spacious, with great  
convenience & might be made impregnable to the whole  
country, the best engineers in Europe would not have chosen a  
situation better adapted to enable a small number to de-  
= fend themselves against a greater." In this situation I  
conceive it <sup>to be</sup> very practicable to form such an establishment  
as would answer our desired end, & it is also a favourable  
circumstance for <sup>conversions</sup> that the natives appear to be thereabouts  
less numerous, & only occasional residents, & have according  
to Capt Cook been more friendly than at most <sup>other</sup> places & at  
any rate such a situation would enable a small number of  
Christians to dwell in security, & defend themselves & native  
friends from the attacks of the hostile, if occasion should re-  
= quire, & from such a place might be had all proper intercourse  
with those who were inclined to be friendly & by Example &  
gentle means gain over to our opinions more few first,  
& through them, extend in time our holy Faith much better  
if not more rapid, than we can otherwise hope to do, for  
ages to come. I can not help stating my opinion that  
much mischief <sup>may</sup> have been the result of improper & incautions  
intercourse with these people in latter visits, I therefore  
suggest, in order to conciliate them the better, & to give them  
at least, the less reason to molest, if not desire to dis-  
= turb the settlers. The <sup>Example</sup> ~~case~~ of my renowned Relative when found-  
= ing his Colony in Pennsylvania, of giving the utmost satisfac-

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-tion for the Land & every thing wanted by the Settlers - I am I is  
well aware that this would be a very great & arduous undertaking  
(not to add dangerous) for one single ~~person~~ individual, & might  
to many even appear chimerical, but to you I trust it will not do  
so, as with encouragement, & proper support the greatest difficulties  
may be surmounted, & when I offer myself for this great service  
I hope my having been a Captain in the Militia will not make  
me the worse Christian, or be thought the less fit for becoming  
one under the banner of Christ. I can if requisite produce testimony  
of my good conduct as an Officer, for nearly 20 years & it is nearly  
the same length of time since I retired (honourably) from it. but in  
offering my services to the Missionary Society I also propose to of-  
fer them a part of the annual rents of my Estates to be receiv-  
ed by them during my absence as some kind of recompence for the  
assistance they may afford me in this undertaking & likewise to-  
wards the support of their benevolent designs. It may not be i-  
-sues to observe that in consequence of knowing  
-ments I am disabled from disposing of my  
-ty in the way you suggested when I saw  
- you, & it being Land would become useless to  
-he in the event of my Emigrating either to New Zealand or Port  
- nothing therefore would give me so much pleasure as to be my  
- that my offers were accepted ~~except that~~ <sup>and</sup> of my project being well  
- received by the Society I regret that I can not offer at present more  
- more than 100£ per Ann but in the course of a little time it may be  
- nearly if not more than double that sum. I am very desirous of  
- knowing what might be the expense of such a Voyage & though accus-  
- tomed to genteel habits I would undergo many & great deprivations in  
- order to accomplish this desirable & good Object & I will esteem it  
- a particular favour if you would give me information so as to  
- enable me to begin the preparations for such an undertaking, &  
- whether it would not be advisable to acquire if possible something  
- of the Language of those parts. It is needless for me to add that if  
- you wish it I am ready to come to town to receive your instruc-  
- tions & beg pardon for occupying so much of your time hoping to be  
- favoured with an early answer I am  
- Yours most obedient  
- very humble servant W. B. Bick

W. I beg leave to observe that if you still disapprove of my  
project for New Zealand, much of the contents of this  
may be applicable to going to Port Jackson especially  
that related to myself

I am  
yrs  
D. B.

Jan 9<sup>th</sup> / 14

D. B.

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to cap  
any  
OK

The Rev. Jonah ~~Watt~~ <sup>Watt</sup>  
Secretary to  
The Church Missionary Society  
9 Mission House  
London

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& have  
other  
most places  
small  
lines

