

Jan 4 17/14
-tion for the Land & every thing wanted by the Settlers. I am I
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 im-
possible to observe that in consequence of knowing
that I am disabled from disposing of my
property in the way you suggested when I saw
you, & it being Land would become useless to
me 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~~ ^{and} 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
Your most obedient
very humble servant W. B. Bick