

George Burder to Josiah Pratt

Camberwell Feb. 15. 1814

Dear Sir

Your letter to Mr Hardcastle was read to the Directors of the Missionary Society yesterday, & is now under consideration. I cannot just yet send you a full answer to your enquiry, because we wish first to consult a friend who is peculiarly interested in the South Sea Mission.

As far as I could learn the mind of the Directors, they are not willing to take any part in a ship, as a Society, but I hope & believe that several individuals will be disposed to take shares in such a vessel if undertaken on suitable terms.

I feel a little at a loss respecting the small vessel (50 tons) building at Otaheite. It is certainly too small to sail to England &c but it may perhaps be sufficient to trade among the islands, where [f] a large ship (like the Minstrell) could not venture. Possibly a small vessel which might be procured at Port Jackson might trade in the South Seas, & another, larger, bring produce home from Port Jackson: but whether having two vessels might not much increase the expence I am not able to judge.

The project appears to me praiseworthy, (tho' hazardous as to its pecuniary result) as it is likely to promote the civilization at least of Australia – by the way, if we had a new ship, that would be a good name for it.

You may expect Dr Sir to hear from me officially in about a week.

I am Sir

Yr^s sincerely

Geo. Burder