

Rev. G. Bourne to Secretary

Feb. 15/14

Cambridge Feb. 15. 1814

Read at Com. Feb. 21/14

498 048

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.

50) I feel a little at a loss respecting the small vessel, ^(50 tons) building at Otakute. It is certainly too small to sail to England &c but it may perhaps be sufficient to trade among the islands, when

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a large ship (like the Minstrel) 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 expense I am not able to judge.

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

You may expect to see me when I hear from me officially in about a week.

I am Sir Yrs sincerely
Geo. Burder