

Mr. W^m Kirk to Secy

Sept 27/17

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Com. of Cor. Sep. 29/17.

Ans^d. Oct. 11/17, thro' of Rev. A. Cheap.

Rev^d Sir

As one of those young Men who have had the Priviledge of speaking with Mr Bickersteth upon the subject of Missionary labor, I take the liberty of addressing you by his kind direction upon a work which has very much affected my heart ever since it pleased our Dear Lord to visit my Soul with a conviction of sin and a knowledge of his saving grace to me as a vile sinner this Sir has still followed me with deeper impressions and clearer Views of my corrupt state by nature and also of the rich plenitude of Christs atoning blood and whose powerful grace has led me to say whereas I once was blind, now I see I have not been acquainted with my Saviours love more than one Year & half being called about the same time with my friend Christopher Thorpe we were both in Darbings together - and the Lord was pleased to bring us into the way of peace much in the same manner and time - & blessed be his Name I trust he has led us alike to the foot of the Cross and made us to know all things to be but loss for him - I have been a Book-keeper in a Mill but owing to the distress of the times and Difficulties in Trade have been for three Months out of this Situation I have had a necessity for settling myself again if possible but the pressing desire for the Missionary service which has been in my heart ever since my own change has still detained me here untill I could have a more decisive prospect opened before me I have spread my wishes before the Lord and offered up many Prayers to him that if he should count me meet to go forth in any way for his glory and the testimony of his saving Name to poor lost sinners, he would be pleased to make my path plain before my face - I desire to have no motive by which to be governed but my Saviours glory - and that whatever hardships & Tribulations I may pass thro' for his Names sake - I may always rejoice in being acquainted with my Masters baptism - this Sir is my motive and wish I offer up to him my Body & all my power

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to his work, unworthy as they are to be given for him who in everlasting Love
Died for me — & I trust him to nourish his own work within — & to uphold me
in every danger — The New Zealanders have had a great and leading interest with
those amongst us here who have had a desire to the north but we feel it rather ^{able} desire
to leave our appointment with our God who if he condescends to use us will no
doubt direct our way my heart ~~heart~~ is much drawn to them & my prayer offered
for their conversion to our Christ but if it appears expedient that another quarter
of the world should be chosen this would be sufficient — The spread of Christs King-
dom amongst the Heathen is that which my Soul desires — It may perhaps be pro-
-per to say that since my change I have been engaged along with my com-
-panions in the Lord in a Sunday School and in an Evening School for the
instruction of the poorer children in this place. —

I think I have answered every thing upon which Mr Bickersteth directed us to
address you excepting what respects my engagement with a young Woman who
I hope is a decided follower of the Lord Jesus she has hitherto walked consist-
-antly and I hope would be a fellow helper in Christs cause should it be the
Lords will to unite us — I have frequently spoken to her upon the subject of a
Missionary life — She wishes to feel her own call to so serious a prospect so
that no difficulties might afterwards discourage her — and we leave our
whole way in this important matter to the mercy of our Lord —

A glorious prospect seems now to present itself to our view and we rejoice and
sigh as it were to have a glimpse of that Period when the powers of darkness
shall give way and the standard of the cross ^{be} erected when Jew and Gentile
shall be made to know the Lord and shall be made one fold under one
Shepherd and the Redeemers Name shall be a praise in the whole Earth with
my prayers for the prosperity of Zion I beg leave to Remain

Your Unworthy Servant
Wm. Kirk