

Henry Tacy to Edward Bickersteth

Wymondham Nov^r 18th 1818

My dear friend,

I rejoice to hear that you have succeeded in securing a passage for James & Charlotte in the Baring. They will hold themselves ready to obey your call.

I wish that you would consult, very deliberately, with M^r Pratt on the subject of the inclosed paper. M^r Heyward is reckoned by very competent judges, to be one of the first practical farmers in this County – perhaps, in the kingdom. He began with nothing, & left off with a fortune of thirty thousand pounds acquired solely by his skill & industry in farming. He has been most kindly attentive to Kemp, of whom he has a very high opinion; and has been reading Captⁿ Cooke & most of the published accounts of New Zealand with a view to rendering James, & the Society, some assistance.

We have been attending to the whole process of work carried on in a brick-yard. I think we can also make & burn tiles. James has seen earthen ware pots manufactured during the last week, and will be among the lime kilns to morrow. He is a little out of heart on the subject of a water mill. He fears he could not make one but I think he is mistaken.

We have planned under the direction of M^r Hayward a hand Plough that James can make very well. M^r H. has a great objection to digging wh he says ruins land for growing wheat. two stout men will be able with one plough to get a large piece of ground ready for the seed in a short time. [f]

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Pray does any person in New Zealand know how to make charcoal? If you are in doubt about this, send me word that we may try our hands at the Manufacture.

I myself am very sanguine on the subject of Hemp. Why may not the growth & manufacture of this article be established in our Settlement? M^r Hayward thinks that, besides covering the charge of the Mission, a very considerable fund would be in a few years, at the disposal of the Society. But such a market would draw multitudes of heathen purchasers from all parts of the islands, for sails & cordage are always in demand among men so situated: and who can doubt that a better merchandize would engage their attention? I wish you would get M^r Marsden to write for a pious Linman.

Thank you very much for your interesting & valuable account of Simeon Wilhelm.

Large demands are made upon our faith & patience with regard to Africa. Yet I feel very sure that God will display his power in that quarter. It is plain that we are weak, & made to feel our weakness in the African Mission; I wish that feeling may affect us, My dear friend, as it once did "Moses the man of God: when it led him to pray "Shew [f] thy work unto they servants; and thy glory unto their children." Ps. 90. I always think the connexion in wh. that prayer stands renders it very touching.

Pray, dear Bickersteth, among the various trials of your faith arising from Missionary engagements, have you need & leisure to try the strength of this &

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that promise on your private account, as formerly? How are you going on?

I think I shall be in London in about three weeks.

Your affectionate friend

Henry Tacy