

MS. 498/94

Thomas Kendall to Josiah Pratt

Cambridge Octr. 4. 1820

Rev.d and Dear Sir,

I feel myself greatly obliged to you and my other friends for the steps you have taken in endeavouring to procure me admission into Holy Orders, and I trust the circumstance of any being sent out again to New Zealand with a regular authority as a clergyman, however desirable it may be to me; will not serve so much for any private gratification of my own; as it will enable me to be more useful amongst the natives as a missionary.

In expressing your assurance to the Bishop of Norwich that I have no other intention, than to spend my life in New Zealand, you was perfectly correct. Indeed, I should not have made this voyage if I had not had that object in contemplation. I never yet entertained a wish to leave New Zealand, and I really think it out of my power to give you my stronger assurance as to the regard which I may here after pay to the conditions of my admission into Holy Orders, than to say; that those conditions are perfectly agreeable to my own mind.

I feel no hesitation whatever in consenting to regard Mr. Butler, or any other gentleman whom the [f] Committee may at any time hereafter be pleased to appoint as superintendent of the whole mission and to act under him as such; especially as you say that you will take ever proper means to have our respective duties, and our relation to each other clearly defined. I never controverted the propriety of a superintendent in any other way than as he had no means at New Zealand of keeping men who were not missionaries under his

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controul [sic] in the same manner as he could guide the missionaries, and that those men often were the means of promoting discord amongst the missionaries themselves. My object was not to treat Mr Butler with contempt in the situation he held under the society; but it was my desire ^to go on without being subject to a plan which entangled me more or less with men whom altho' I wished well, I notwithstanding wished to avoid. In rejecting a superintendent, I acted wrong. I wish to yield to those who are wiser than myself and [f] am sorry for what I have done.

You seem, my Dear Sir, to be under serious apprehensions respecting my future attention to the regulations of the Society. How am I to answer you, or to satisfy you respecting this particular? A poor promise is nothing without the grace of God in the Soul. It is my devout prayer that I may be endued with this. I look with gratitude and thankfulness to Him who has not only suffered me to be afflicted, but who has been near me in the time of my affliction. He who best knows my heart, knows my earnest desire to love him, and to be made conformable to his will, I desire to praise him also, that altho' still sorrowful, he enabled me to go on my way rejoicing; I humbly trust that I shall still have the happiness to enjoy the light of his countenance and be enable to promote the knowledge of his salvation, amongst the many New Zealanders whom I know, and whom I wish to see again.

I thank you for indulging me with the [f] privilege of the instruction of the Rev.d Professor Lee so long. I have now nearly completed my

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work. The Professor has assisted me very much I could not have done without
him. And am Rev.d and Dear Sir

Your faithful Servt—

Tho.s Kendall