

*Samuel Marsden to Josiah Pratt*

Parramatta Nov.<sup>r</sup> 20. 1811

Rev.<sup>d</sup> Sir

I mentioned in my letter of yesterdays date that while I was writing to you, two of the Sons of Chiefs from New Zealand paid me a visit- I invited them to stay all night, when Terra's Son told me he had come up to Parramatta in order that he might see Duaterra's farm. We spent the evening in various Conversations. I inquired after Mike Duaterras wife, he after=wards entertained me with a Song which <sup>^is</sup> called Mikes Song, and which Mike used to sing when she mourned the Absence of Duaterra. He told me that the English treated the New Zealanders very bad. A Ship on her way to India from Port Jackson put in to the Bay of Islands, within his Fathers Dominions. The master agreed with Terra his father to load his Vessel with Masts and Spears – Terra fulfilled his Contract, and treated the Captain and Crew well [f] when the Captain had got all his masts and Spears on Board – he sailed without giving Terra so much as an Axe, for all his Labour, in cutting and bring the Timber to his Vessel – The young man remarked very persitedly [?] upon the Fraud of the Captain; and told me if his Father had been in England and had been guilty of such a Crime he would have been put in Gaol. I spoke to him about the Boyde – he was much concerned about what had taken place with Respect to that vessel, and said his father was now at war with the district, where the Boyde was cut off. But in consequence of the Conduct of the English, the New Zealanders, to

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use his own Expression, thought the English had brought the Devil with them who would kill all the men in New Zealand. Terra had sent his Son to Port Jackson to see if he could learn any thing, or obtain any useful Articles. He had entered on Board a sealing Vessel, which proceeded from New Zealand to Macquarrie's Island [f] He was put on Shore there along with a Gang of men, and the Vessel returned to Port Jackson – Their Provisions were soon all expended; and the Part were compelled to live on the Eggs of Sea fowls and Sea Elephant Tongues – This Island is situated but south of his own Climate, and very cold. Here his sufferings were great for about ten months according to his statement from Hunger and Cold. The owners live at Port Jackson – what he has received from them he tells me is one Shirt, an Handkerchief and one Pair of Trousers, all which he had one, and all he hopef~~ul~~ with three shillings in money from thins [?] I shall see him redressed in this. I asked him how he was employed – he answered – I was a King in New Zealand, but now I am a Cook at Port Jackson – I make fires on Board of the Ship and on Shore, and cook in both places. When I return (he added) my father will say, Coweetee Teetooei (for that is his name) what have you brought me? What have you learned? What kind of a master had you? I tell him I brought nothing, I learn nothing white man at Port Jackson make me a [f] Cook. My father will be very angry with me. I a King at Home, I a Cook at Port Jackson. I told him I would inquire into his complaint, we had much more interesting Conversation. This morning I

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took them in my Chaise to see Duaterra's farm, when they beheld his wheat just ripe, his pease beans &c, they were highly gratified, and in a few minutes I observed them making a fire across my farm and cutting notches with a Knife in the stumps of the trees – I inquired what they were doing – they told me they were marking out a farm for Towetee- Teetooa, that he would return to New Zealand the first opportunity, and bring one hundred men to work upon the farm. I told him I would give him as much land as he liked, and he might begin to morrow. I think he will try what he can do – if he can not return for assistance. In going along in the Chaise one of them told me that Englishman swear much, that this was very bad – that he had never sworn an oath in his life – [f] if he sho.<sup>d</sup> swear at a tree, or a man, or woman or at any thing, his father would punish him very much, I asked him why New Zealand men did not swear – he answered, because when they died they would go to God, and he would send them to the Devil who would tattow them, and burn them. The two years that Duaterra was with me I never heard him swear, nor any one of his three comp=anions. The more I see of these people, the more I am pleased with, and astonished at their moral Ideas, and Characters. They appear like a superior Race of men. Was Christianity once received amongst them, New Zealand would be one of the finest parts of the Globe. As I have already mentioned Agriculture will meet their wants, and find them constant Employment – and probably tend more than any other natural. Cause to reconcile the different

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Tribes, and prevent their wars – Growing no Grain, and nothing but Potatoes, without manure, must impoverish their funds – and compel them to trespass upon [f] one anothers Estates in order to attain food for their Support – All who are acquainted with Agriculture know that Potatoes alone (and without manure) will soon exhaust the richest Soil. If the inhabitants of England were to live upon fish and Potatoes, there would be hard fighting some times for a little Ground. A very great Chief lately named Mucā, Uncle to Duaterra, was obliged for the Support of himself and Subjects to go into another Chiefs district to grow Potatoes, which brought on a war, in which he and many of his men were slain – They now grow a little maize, If they acquire the Knowledge of growing wheat, Pease, Beans, Vegetables, &c &c. The different Seasons will supply them with different food, which would prove the greatest temporal Blessing to them. I shall go myself to New Zealand if providence should open my way. At least I have the most ardent wish, should that wish ever be gratified – [f] I rely much upon Duaterra – I think he will do great things in this respect. I shall try to get one of their Priests over if I can, and see what can be made of him. A school for them we must have here and ~~M.<sup>r</sup> Kendall~~ M.<sup>r</sup> Kendall, may come the first opportunity –

I am

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir

Yours most respectfully

MS. 498/241

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