

Australian Historical Monographs
**Some Private Correspondence of the Rev. Samuel Marsden
and Family.
1794-1824**

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Introduction

When, in 1932, the Rev. S. M. Johnstone wrote his biography of Samuel Marsden, he included in his bibliography many published original documents, but only two unpublished letters. In the year 1885, Samuel Marsden's grandson, the Rt. Rev. S. E. Marsden, then Bishop of Bathurst, sent to a certain Miss Stokes, of London, the daughter of that George Stokes who founded the Parker Society, copies, some handwritten, some typed, of thirty-three original letters written by the Rev. Samuel Marsden, Mrs. Eliza Marsden and Miss Ann Marsden to the Stokes family in London. In his covering letter the Bishop said: "I think passages from the letters of my grandfather might interest some people; but as the language is antique this should be explained, so that readers might understand that it is in accordance with the usage of the last century."

The correspondence begins on the 24th August, 1794, at Parramatta, where Marsden, with his wife and daughter, had taken up residence on the fourth of the previous July. The series of letters covers the period from that date until the 12th February, 1824, a span of almost thirty years, and includes the whole of the administrations of Governors Hunter, King, Bligh, Macquarie and Brisbane. Historically, their value is twofold. First, they throw light on certain important phases of Australian history then in the making; second, they reveal, as perhaps no other extant material does, the texture of Marsden's intellectual and moral make-up, with sidelights on the character and doings of other contemporary notables.

The letters themselves are usually addressed to Miss Mary Stokes, whose place of residence is given, first, as at No. 8 Goldsmith Street, Cheapside, and later at 39 Gutter Lane, Cheapside. Some letters are directed to Mr. John Stokes, Senior, at 33 Gutter Lane. A few of the letters did not pass through the post, but were sent home per favour of various ships' passengers. The name of Charles Grimes, for example, is endorsed on one; that of master Charles Marsden on another. Many of them have also the date of receipt noted on the back.

The whole of the letters are now published for the first time exactly as they were written, but numbered to facilitate reference. The footnotes are intended merely to elucidate the text.

No. 1.

Parramatta
August 24th 1794.

Dear Madam,

You will probably have heard before this reaches England of our safe arrival in New South Wales.¹ We have much to bless the Lord for who conducted us safe through the mighty waters and brought us to our/the desired haven. I wish I had a greater sense

¹ The Rev. Samuel Marsden sailed in the ship *William*, which left London on 1st July, 1793, and arrived at Port Jackson on 10th March, 1794.

of the Divine mercies and were more humbly dependent upon the goodness of Providence and Grace.

We are now pretty comfortably settled at Parramatta and shall not be removed to Norfolk Island while Major Grose is Lieut. Governor. You will have heard of Mr. Johnson's quarrel with the present Lieut. Governor and how uncomfortably we are situated in point of Religion. Mr. Johnson informs me that things in that respect were never anything like so bad as at present, there is so little attention paid even to mere morality. The differences between Mr. Johnson and the Lieut. Governor hath gone to a very great length which renders it exceedingly unpleasant to me as it gives me a degree of pain when in company with either of the contending parties, as I am constrained then to be under a sort of necessity of being guarded in my expressions. I am resident about 14 miles from Mr. Johnson and have to preach at several places, but have no church at any of them. I bless God my congregation is constantly increasing, and two or three have begun to enquire what they must do to be saved. I hope our present dark night is the womb of a bright morning, not that I expect to see so many turned from Darkness to Light, yet I have no doubt but He will own and bless his word to the eternal salvation of some of these unhappy people. Nothing can be done at Sydney while Mr. Johnson and the Governor are so at variance. The Lord will arise by and by & our enemies will be scattered.

Things are better upon the whole than I expected to find them among such abandoned people. I am not surprised to see them cast such contempt upon God and Religion knowing the human heart to be so full of enmity to Christ and his Gospel. What gives me the greatest uneasiness is the unhappy differences which prevails between Mr. Johnson and the Lieut. Governor. As I enjoy some privileges which Mr. Johnson at present does not this hurts him a good deal. Though I am favoured no more than any other officer, or than Mr. Johnson was before he quarreled with Major Grose, yet to see the Governor pay me more attention than he does him gives him much pain. Mr. Johnson has been treated unkindly. I must and will take his part, in what I see he is right, but then I must not, it is not my duty to be at variance with the Governor here if I can consistant with my duty and conscience avoid it. I cannot describe out situation: it is such an uncommon one. All the higher ranks are lost to God and Religion, and you may so form an idea of the characters of the lower orders.

While we were at Mr. Johnsons their house was broken open and a good quantity of sugar was stolen belonging to Mrs. J. and 70 lb. of Coffee belonging to me – I had also 6 pairs of shoes stolen from me to by Mr. Johnsons servant. We do in the literal sense dwell amongst lions.

Mrs. M is very well and our little daughter. She desires her kindest love to you. She will write probably to you by the next ship. Present my respects to Mr. Stokes.

I am

Dear Madam

Yours &c &c

Samuel Marsden.²

Note on back of letter : Please tell Edward that the mellon seed he gave me is now growing up on Kingston's Farm³ and sho'd be happy if he cou'd partake of them when ripe.

No. 2.

² Letter No. 1 is inscribed: "Rec'd Feb'y 28th 1795."

³ John Kingston is listed as a private in the New South Wales Corps, 1789.

Parramatta
December 13th 1794

Dear Madam,

I am convinced you will receive with peculiar satisfaction the information of our safe arrival in New South Wales. I shall not soon forget your kind attention and civility shown to me in London, though transported to this distant part of the universe.

I have met with nothing so bad as I might have expected before we sailed from England. Wince we arrived in this colony we have been very well provided with all the common necessaries of life. The climate is fine and healthy and agrees very well with my constitution. I have not suffered one single day of sickness since we came here.

The country is very romantic, beautifully formed by nature and will be most delightful when it becomes a little more opened. It abounds with beautiful shrubs and ferns of various kinds. We are settled at Parramatta about 14 miles distant from Sydney where MR. Johnson resides. There is a fine river which runs up from Sydney to Parramatta and boats continually passing to and fro, so that we can easily visit each other. I have one companion at Parramatta the commanding officer wife (Mrs. MacArthur) a very pleasant agreeable Lady, mother of three fine children. At Sydney there are several Ladies so that we have some respectable society. Upon the whole my situation is far more comfortable than I expected to find.

I experience a great loss of Religious Society. Our general conversation in company is very different from what I have been accustomed to in England. It all turns upon worldly affairs. Religion is seldom a subject of conversation excepting to ridicule its doctrines or professions, never to edify one another. There appears humanly speaking little prospect of doing good – however I do not despair for the work is not man's but the Lord's. I trust we are not forgotten at a Throne of Grace by the faithful in England. The Lord had some grand design in sending his gospel to this dark benighted part of the world and therefore this consideration should resign us to his Dispensations who worketh all things according to the Counsel of _____⁴

You would hear from Miss Amey that I got a daughter off the South Cape of new Holland. The Lord preserved us both in a wonderful manner and by good nursing of Mrs. Johnson, we both of us soon recovered the fatigues of a storm. She is now nine months old and a very healthy child.

Mr. M. joins with me in best respects to Mr Stokes & family.

I am

Dear Madam
Yours &c

Eliza Marsden.⁵

No. 3.

Sydney
September 16 1795

Sir,

Probably you will be a little surprised at receiving this unexpected line, but as a circumstance hath occurred in this Colony which I am persuaded will be gratifying to you I have taken the liberty to communicate it. On the 20th of this month on the very day Governors Hunter's Commission was read we received information that the cattle which were lost about seven years ago were found. They have not yet been brought into Camp neither have their number been fully ascertained. The men who found them told thirty-nine – three large bulls – and the rest cows and calves – they imagine there

⁴ Words obscured by seal.

⁵ "Received July 29th 1795."

are many more than the above number. I remember you contended very strongly when I was in England that the Cows were not destroyed but that they would in future be found, which is now proved to be the case. Another very singular circumstance hath also happened lately. About five years ago⁶ some Convicts left the Colony in an open boat in hopes of making their escape, four of whom a few days ago were found by Captain Broughton (who commands his Majesties ship "Providence" 20 guns which is sent out here on Discovery) in Port Stevens, and brought to Port Jackson.

They have never been heard of for these five years past and have all this time been living amongst the natives of New Holland. I have not yet had an opportunity of learning how these men have spent their time amongst the poor savages. They were quite naked like the miserable natives when Captain Broughton metwith them.

With respect to the Colony it prospers much. Cultivation goes on very rapidly. At present we have the prospect of a very large crop of wheat which will be ready for reaping in November. I think it one of the finest countries in the known world and no people I believe will be more happy than the people of this island in a short time. Our live stock increases very fast. I suppose there are not less than 1400 female goats and sheep in the colony at present and these have young twice in a year. We are now totally independent of foreign countries for dry provisions and in three of four years shall have plenty of animal food. I wish we had some thousands of the poor English families here, we would soon make them very comfortable. I have lately visited Norfolk Island. The inhabitants there are well provided for. They have both plenty of dry provisions and animals raised by themselves. You may purchase a good fowl for sixpence and a Duck for tenpence or a shilling. They have the greatest plenty of fresh port. Should you hear any reports of the sufferings of the people here they ought not to be believed, such reports must in a great measure be false.

Should this short letter written in the greatest haste (as the ship is already gone down the Harbour) afford you one moments amusement, I shall be happily recompensed for my trouble.

Mrs. Marsden joins me in kind respects to you and Mrs. Stokes.

I am Dear Sir

Yours &c &c

Samuel Marsden.⁷

No. 4.

Parramatta
October 26th 1795.

Dear Madam

I received your kind present of the Candles and embrace this opportunity to thank you for them. I wrote to Mr. Stokes since Governor Hunter arrived to inform him that the Cows which were lost seven years ago are now found, and am not certain whether I gave you a line or not at the same time. Governor Hunter's arrival hath given Mr. Johnson and myself peculiar satisfaction. We have some hopes that the wicked will not triumph so much as what they have done heretofore, though I do not yet expect to see any great Reformation.

The enemy hath so completely possessed himself in the minds of all ranks and orders here, that it is a matter of doubt with me that His Power will be ever seen in this place to fall like Lightning from Heaven. I wish the unfortunate Convicts were the greatest enemies to the Cross of Christ we had to encounter. Satan hath his Agents everywhere, and generally some persons of influence and authority in the world. To do

⁶ See *New South Wales Historical Records*, Vol. II., p. 778, where the escape is reported.

⁷ "To John Stokes, Esqr." "Rec'd Feb'y 20th 1797."

my Duty here as a Minister is extremely hard and burdensome. When I compare what I do with what I think I ought to do the whole of my work seems daily neglected. I am ashamed & confounded before God for all my shortcomings. A Physician hath no business when all the inhabitants around him are whole. This is exactly my case. I do not know one person that wants the great physician of Souls. I often wonder how some of your great preachers (your Newtons and Fosters in London) men of sound piety and real godliness would feel if they had to preach for six months, and knew that they had not for that space of time two persons to preach to who ever made the enquiry (Where is God my Maker” or had the smallest concern for their souls. I should like to know what effect this supposed situation would have upon their great minds, though I believe they could not tell me. I know this situation hath produced a very odd and I may add a very unpleasant effect upon mine.

My religious feelings are very different from what they once were. I am often lead to doubt that I was wrong in England and much more so now. The Lord search and try my heart and make me sincere and unblameable before him in Love.

Government hath not provided me any place to perform public worship in yet neither do I know when they will. I am going to preach at the Hawkesbury settlement on Sunday next, twenty miles distant from home, and I know no more where I shall sleep or perform divine Service than you to whom I am writing. And what is much more trying I expect the people will absent themselves, as soon as they know I am coming. These things render a minister’s duty painful and difficult.

With regard to temporals our situation is much better than would be expected. Articles of comfort are often very dear, but we are seldom without them. I paid a guinea a pound for the last Tea I bought here, and three pounds a dozen for red and white wine. When I was at Norfolk Island about four months ago Tea sold there for 27/- per lb. and Tabacco 10/- Candles 3/- Spirits £1/5/- per Gallon, and all other articles which would be procured from the ship that was there were equally extravagantly dear. Though this is the case we have no cause to complain of our outward comforts taking them all together. If everything was equally as agreeable we should be well situated. I have great reason to be thankful that I am happy in my own family; I believe few more so. As you are married I may mention this to you without risk of being laughed at. Did you know what sad feelings I sustained on account of Mrs. M. in my late voyage from Norfolk Island, for nearly a fortnight together when every day and night too I expected to be buried in the Great Deep, you would not have dropped that kind hint in Mr. Johnson letter “Tell Mr. M to be kind to Mrs. Marsden.” Your admonition is highly gratifying to me, as it only enjoyns a repetition of what I take please in. I should have been wretched and miserable here without a wife, now I am happy and comfortable.

Our little daughter (whom probably you may have heard of) grows a fine girl and affords a little amusement for Mrs. Marsden. Mrs. M. unites with me in every Christian respect to you and your family.

I am Dear Madam

Yours &e &e

Samuel Marsden.⁸

In haste. Late in the evening. Excuse mistakes.

No. 5.

Parramatta,
New South Wales,
1 May 1796.

⁸ “Rec’d August 4th 1796.”

Dear Madam

Your kind favor dated March 10th 1795 we received Nov. 6th 95 but find myself at loss in what manner to express myself. Your good wishes and kind remembrance merit my warmest gratitude and that is the only tribute I can pay your goodness. I long for an opportunity of conversing with you face to face. This would enable me to open my mind more fully than I can now do with paper and ink but whether I shall ever be indulged with that privilege or no is still in the dark womb of Providence. We seem in our present situation to be almost totally cut off from all connexion with the world especially the virtuous part of it. Old England is no more than like a pleasing dream. When I think of it it appears to have no existence but in my own imagination. I feel as if I had once conversed with friends, united in love by the same spirit – some faint remembrance of those pleasures still remain and I cannot but flatter myself with some distant hope that it will be again with me as in months past. Had we only a few pious friends to pass away an hour with it would render this colony more tolerable.

The want of a place for public worship is still to be regretted. We have not one at Parramatta nor any likely to be. So little attention being paid to the ministers makes Religion appear contemptible. Sometimes Mr. Marsden preaches in a Convict hut, sometimes in a place appropriated for Corn and at times does not know where he is to perform it, which often makes him quite uneasy and puts him out of temper both with the place and people.

With respect to myself I enjoy both my health and spirits pretty well equally as well as when in England. I thank you for kind attention to my daughter; the book you sent her I hope she will live to benefit by. She now can talk pretty well and is an entertaining companion to a fond mother whose feelings you will readily excuse. I have also a little Native Boy who takes up part of my attention. He is about six years old, and now begins to read English and wait at table and I hope at some future period he may be an useful member of society. He has no inclination to go among the natives and has quite forgot their manners.

Present my best respects to Mrs. Stokes Miss Stokes and Master Edward and tell him we often talk of him when we are eating melons, the seeds of which he was so kind to give me.

With wishing you every blessing in this life

I remain

Dear Madam

Yours &c &c

Eliza Marsden.

Mr. M. gives you a line but as the two ships sail together we divide the letters.⁹

No. 6.

Parramatta
December 3rd 1796.

Dear Madam

Though I wrote to you lately I embrace the earliest opportunity to inform you I have received your letter by the “Sylph” and also Mrs. Marsden one. We feel ourselves greatly indebted to you for your kind remembrance of us in this distant port. News from old England come from whom it may is welcome and much more if it comes from a lover of Jesus. We have many things to struggle with here which have a natural tendency to deaden our affections and stupify our souls. Happy should I be to see God reviving his work of grace in New South Wales. Our land brings forth plentifully

⁹ “Rec’d May 14th 1797.”

neither does he suffer our cattle to decrease – The bounties of Providence are bestowed on us with a liberal hand, no poverty or want is experienced by any – have plenty of bread and to spare notwithstanding we are very ungrateful. We are unmindful of the God who gives us all these things richly to enjoy. It is an unspeakable happiness to see the kind hand of Providence superintending all our ways. He both can and does make the barren wilderness smile. His goodness and mercy hath followed me all the days of my life and I humbly hope dear Madam to dwell in his house for ever. I am so greatly blessed that was I to murmur or complain against any of his dispensations towards me it would almost be an unpardonable sin.

You mention in your letter you would be glad if I would collect you some seeds and plants from Norfolk Island. I was there better than a year ago, but I do not know when I shall go again. I will write to an acquaintance who lives there and endeavour to obtain some for you. Anything that this country affords and that I can obtain shall be very happy to send you. I think it probable I shall be able to collect you some seeds such as you never have yet received as I sometimes visit different parts from Sydney. Such as I can obtain you shall have though I do not profess any great botanical knowledge myself.

I have much to occupy my time and a great variety of duties to perform. I am a Gardener a Farmer a Magistrate & Minister so that when one duty does not call me another always does. In this infant colony there is plenty of manual labor for every body. I conceive it a duty for all to take an active part. He who will not work must not eat. Now is our Harvest-time. Yesterday I was in the field assisting in getting my wheat. To-day I have been sitting in the civil court hearing the complaints of the People. To-morrow if well must ascend the pulpit and preach to my people. In this manner I chiefly spend my time. It may appear strange but it is necessary situated as we are. You can form no idea Madam of our state. I wish to be found faithful to act like a Christian Minister. I can say this that I do not eat the bread of idleness. It is my opinion that God will ere long visit New South Wales with his heavenly grace. Out of these stones he will raise up children unto Abraham. There has not been any shaking yet among the dry bones, but the Son of Man is commanded to prophecy and I hope by and by the Lord will command the wind to blow. Stir up thy strength o God & come amongst us.

My little family are all well. Mrs. M. has not time to write by this conveyance she enjoys her health well. I take more care of her probably than you are aware of. I beg my kindest respects to Mr. Stokes. Inform him our crops are immensely great – we have the greatest abundance of wheat now. Could maintain some thousands more people if we had them in dry provisions. We could also make plenty of wine if we had persons who understood the operation properly. Would be very thankful if you could by any means send me out a few Hop-cuttings. I think they would grow if they were packed properly with a little mould in a case and nailed down. And also a little Hop-seed. Let it be put into a bottle and seal it with a little seal wax. A few hop cuttings might also be put up without mould and sealed at each end. This might be a means to preserve them. Should it not be too much trouble for you to do this I shall be greatly indebted to you. Hops would be a general good to this Colony. Mrs. M. joins me in every kind respect to you and Mr. Stokes.

In haste

I am Dear Madam
Yours &c &c

Samuel Marsden.¹⁰

¹⁰ “Rec’d March 19, 1798.”

No. 7.

Parramatta N.S.W.
Sept 6th 1799.

Dear Madam,

It is with pleasure I take up my pen to inform you I received your kind letter dated Sept. 27th 1798 by the Hillsborough July 99 and also your valuable present. Accept dear Madam my most grateful acknowledgment for your kind remembrance of me not only for their being so acceptable in this dear Colony as for the pleasing idea of being still held in remembrance by so kind a friend. I regret much the loss of your present by the *Lady Shore*.¹¹ If what Mr. Marsden had in her had come safe it would have made us very comfortable as at that time we was without any of the comforts of life such as Tea, Sugar Wine Spirits &c. It was very laughable to see us sit down as formerly to Balm Tea or Wheat Coffee sometimes without Sugar. Since that we have been supplied from India which at that time we had been deprived of by the loss of the *Sydney Cove*.¹² The *Lady Shore* was a loss to many individuals.

I am happy to hear of the welfare of Mr. Edward. I am sure he must make a handsome soldier – may he prove in goodness a second Colonel Gardiner¹³ as he like him has the prayers as well as example of so amiable a mother. When you write to him will you give my kind respects to him and shall always be exceeding happy to hear of his being successful. The parting with him must have been a severe trial to you. I can in some measure feel for you as I was near experiencing the loss of my dear Ann as we were going to send her home with a Mr. and Mrs. Cover, one of the missionaries that went to Otahiete and came to this Colony. Their intention was to return to England, if they had it would have been a good opportunity to have sent her. Mrs. Cover is a kind good woman, they have no children, they buried a boy about fourteen just as they left Spithead.

I own it would have been a severe trial to part with her, but the manners of the people are so corrupt and we cannot get proper servants about us, and there being not one good school that I should have been very happy to have heard of her being safe with my mother. She is now 5 ½ years old, she reads a little and works very neat. Last Christmas we were near losing her by an intermitting fever but the Lord in answer to our prayers spared her I hope for his honor and our comfort

My Charles is seventeen months old and that is a very entertaining as well as mischievous age. Your goodness will excuse me for saying so must of my children. You must remember I am a young mother. Mr. Marsden has wrote you a long letter and mentions every information you may wish to about ourselves and the Colony

Mr. Johnson is much better in health than when we wrote last. Mrs. Johnson still continues to enjoy a good state of health. I am happy to have so kind a woman near me. Milbah and Henry are two fine children. Milbah you will see what progress she has made in her writing and it is a great pity she is not in England. You can have no

¹¹ The *Lady Shore* was a convict transport. IN 1798, when bound for Sydney, she was seized by mutineers, who turned the people adrift in boats, which arrived safely at Rio de Janeiro. The mutineers took the ship to Monte Video, and gave her up to the Spaniards, who hanged the ringleader and delivered others to English naval authorities. The loss of her stores caused much distress in Sydney. The vessel herself was recaptured by H.M.S. *Tremendous* in 1801.

¹² The *Sydney Cove* was an East Indiaman, which, on a voyage from Bengal to Port Jackson on 8th February, 1797, sprang a leak, and was beached at Preservation Island, one of the Furneaux Group. Twelve of the Lascar crew perished while trying to reach Sydney, three whites alone surviving. Twenty-five men who remained on *Eliza*, a longboat, which took off a few hands, but foundered, the whole complement being drowned. In February, 1798, Matthew Flinders returned in the *Francis*, and took away the remaining five men.

¹³ Colonel James Gardiner (1688-1745), Colonel of the Enniskillens, fought through all Marlborough's campaigns. In 1719 he was converted by a vision of the Cross. He was killed near Prestonpans.

idea what disadvantages the children labor under unless you were to pay us a visit. Give my respectful compliments to Mr Stokes and family, and

Believe me to be

With the greatest esteem

Dear Madam

Yours affecte

Eliza Marsden.

We are surprised to see the alteration in the fashion. The Bonnet with white satin ribbons is much admired. Dear Madam your goodness induced me to take the liberty to say a little white ribbon would be acceptable.¹⁴

No. 8.

Parramatta
Feby 22nd 1800.

Dear Madam

Though I have wrote to you not long ago yet I am induced to give you a line again by this conveyance. I have sent to England my oldest daughter Ann under the care of a Mr. & Mrs. Cover and have directed them to wait upon you with Ann before she goes down into Yorkshire. Mr. Cover is a worthy man and has conducted himself with great propriety in this settlement. He was sent out in the ship Duff on the mission to these Islands in our Seas. I shall refer you to him for any particular information.

You will wish to hear how the Kingdom of our Lord succeeds among us. I am sorry to say appearances are worse than ever. Satans Kingdom seems to be so fully established and his power and influence so universal among us that nothing but an uncommon display of Almighty power can shake his throne. Mr situation becomes disgusting and painful to the last degree. I long to quit the Colony and retire from such scenes of ungodliness and wrong. Our friends can form little more idea of our situation in this Country than they can of the invisible regions. I have made application to Government to return. Whether I shall obtain permission or no I know not. If I do you may expect me in London in about 18 months, God willing, after you receive this. Should any material change take place so as to afford any prospect of real good to this Colony I might be induced to remain longer. This depends wholly on circumstances. I think it probable Mr. Johnson will return soon it is his present determination to do so. We may say on our departure from this country we have been fairly hunted out of the settlement. Our life is one continued scene of contention and opposition where iniquity abounds so much and our civil connexion with the worst of men render our souls dry and barren.

We feel little of that real vital spiritual life which is so essential to the happiness and progress of the real Christian. To be cut off from all the society and conversaton of the righteous and to hold a situation in the state that calls you forth to act continually with wicked men in power is painful and distressing. We are not situated in this country like clergymen in England who have only to attend to their studies & their flocks. Many other unpleasant duties devolve upon me. In the midst of all my only consolation is the Lord knows how I am situated and foreknew it. I sometimes hope I am doing his will ever under a dark & thick cloud. The end will come by and by, we shall then see why & wherefore we have met with this & that trial. In every difficulty I have cause to be thankful for good health. Mrs. M. enjoys the same and our little family. Mrs. M. would have wrote but has been so busy getting Ann ready for sea and having only got her bed about eight weeks ago, therefore hopes you will excuse her. It

¹⁴ "Rec'd June 2d 1800."

was my intention to have made you a collection of the seeds of this country and to have sent it by this ship knowing they would have been taken care of but it has not been in my power for want of time. The few I had collected with a branch belonging to each kind according to their number I have sent you under the care of Mr. Cover – am sorry they are so few. They are all new and fresh and gathered with my own hands. Mr. Cover will inform you how few spare moments I have. I am busy in building a Church at Parramatta. Shall be happy to see it completed. I think it would never be done if I was to leave the settlement. I can only say it is my present intention and wish to quit the colony yet my times are in the Lords hands, it will be enough if I am found faithful when my work comes to be done. The building on an Orphan house is another object which lies near my heart. I shall feel uncommon satisfaction in having it carried into execution. The number of poor children in this colony I pity who have either no parents or would have been better at this moment if they had never known them. I shall say nothing of the monopolies extortions and oppressions of the great, and the wickedness poverty and ruin of the lower ranks of the inhabitants of N.S.W. You will hear of these things from other quarters. They will and must become a national concern speedily or you will hear of the murder of the greatest part of us by & by. Let me beg dear Madam an interest in your prayers. May the Lord bless you and yours. Give my kindest respects to Mr. Stokes. Mrs. M. joins me in every Christian respect.

I remain

Dear Madam

Yours sincerely

Samuel Marsden.

No. 9.

New South Wales

Parramatta

August 22nd 1801

My dear Madam

I now sit down to return you thanks for your kind letter and present, also for the books you sent to my daughter who was in England about the time the ship sailed that they came in. I need not express the pain it cost me in parting from her and the anxiety till I heard of her safe arrival. You who have felt the same can sympathise with me but I trust it is for her good. This has been a very bad place for children indeed I may say for people of every age.

Some good I hope will be done with the rising generation. The Orphan home been open for 30 girls and will be ready for 30 more in a short time. Mr. Marsden has sent the proceeding home and sermon (*sic.*) he preached the first Sunday the children attended. The governor gives it every support. Mr. King and Mr. Paterson attends every day that it may be properly managed.

Before this you have had the pleasure of seeing our dear friends Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and daughter.¹⁵ I feel great regret in their leaving the colony. Their kind attention to us will always endear them to me. I hope Mr. Johnson will recover his health now he is returned to his native country.

The prospect before us is rather unpleasant. We are on short allowance of meat and grain from the public store and it wants three months to the harvest. Many of the inhabitants have not a grain of wheat or corn in their possession nor is it to be purchased. I hope he who fed Elijah in the wilderness will not let us feel the dreadful

¹⁵ The Rev. Richard and Mrs. Johnson left New South Wales in October, 1800, and reached England the following May.

calamity of famine, the harvest failed last year. The settlers in general was not provident enough to provide against the latter end of the year

Mr. Palmer had a great loss for himself and the Colony, he had a large stack of wheat calculated at a thousand bushels burnt.

The Governor has sent the "Porpoise" to Otaheite and the other Islands to see if they can get Pork for us. The Governor seems desirous for establishing communication between Port Jackson and Otaheite. This might prove a great advantage to the poor Missionaries and be a great protection to them should a ship constantly visit them from this colony they would be able to keep a constant correspondence with their friends in England.

I hope dear Madam to be favored with a line at every opportunity it gives me the greatest pleasure to hear from you or from our friends and connexions, you don't know the happiness it gives me not only for the moment, when I am alone and dull I amuse myself with reading my friends letters and find myself refreshed.

My family is the same as when I last wrote, a boy and girl, Elizabeth is very engaging she is just beginning to prattle. Please give my best respects to Mrs. Stokes and Miss and thanks to Charles for writing Anns name in her books. You must also remember me to Mr. Edward. Let me beg an interest in your prayers.

I am Madam

Your obliged & affection

E. Marsden.

Mr. M. writes by this ship.

No. 10.

Sydney
New South Wales
August 22nd 1801.

Dear Madam

I received your kind favor for the Cornwallis. It always gives us peculiar pleasure to hear from you in this distant part of the globe. I hope in this period our friends Mr. & Mrs. Johnson will have paid you a visit. From them you will learn the exact state of this Colony and what a miserable place it is in a moral & religious sense. Since my colleagues departure it is quite changed. The greatest alterations have been brought about from a variety of causes uniting together. Our present Governor has almost put a total stop to the introduction of spirits into the Colony. However strong an inclination the common people may have to get intoxicated they will not have it in their power. We have also had a number of ships from all quarters with Commodities for sale which has reduced many goods below their original cost and many thousands of pounds worth of goods have been taken out of the settlement lately for want of purchasers and an immense quantity of goods remain unsold. We are at measure to be attributed to the extravagance & idleness of the Farmers who take little or no care of their crops when grown. We have a good prospect at present of a plentiful harvest next Season but before then the sufferings of many will be very great. You would see from my colleagues papers when he returned that an Institution had been adopted for providing for the poor distressed children in this Colony. The school is now opened and more than 30 girls received. I spent the last evening with them for the first time and made a beginning to instruct them in the principles of Christianity, sang a hymn and went to prayers with them.

New South Wales while I was performing this duty appeared more like a Christian Country than it had ever done since I first entered it. I hope the foundation is

now laid for religious and morality if God only furnish means to carry it on. It will meet I am aware with great opposition and have many difficulties to surmount in order to carry it into full effect. I shall exert my utmost abilities to promote its prosperity & like Nehemiah shall make supplication to the God of Heaven, and say the "God of Heaven will prosper us therefore we his servants will arise and build."

My colleague may think himself happy that he is out of the settlement at present. He would have been very miserable had he been here. There are still great differences amongst our leading men which renders the situation of those who would be quiet far from pleasant. I make it my study to avoid all quarrels as much as possible and sometimes do violence to my own feelings for the sake of Peace. After all ones caution troubles will come, they must be expected while we live in the midst of unreasonable and wicked men. I have lately had a difficult task to perform. Our Courts of Justice where we are compelled to sit as members to administer Justice often expose an honest man who will do his duty to great troubles. He is constrained sometimes to condemn the conduct of his equals or superiors. When he does this though no more than his duty the guilty will remember him and seek occasion to do him an injury. I hope from what has lately happened the mode of administering Justice will be completely changed in this country.

I have seen a great deal of mankind during my residence in this Country, at least of the bad part but I am quite tired of my situation in many respects. I have much to do, more than almost is possible for one person but God is very gracious, he gives me strength and spirit. If I feel little pleasure from the multiplicity of other business in Religion in the week day I am refreshed sometimes on the Sabbath and find my soul sweetly drawn after God. This is a very ungracious soil for the growth of Piety. The Lord knows best where to place me. In the midst of every difficulty I see cause to rejoice that he has appointed me such a Post of Honor. Whatever I may meet with if it comes in the way of my duty, it does not become me to complain but to be still & know that he is God. Mrs. Marsden has wrote you a line. You will have seen Ann our little girl. Her mother did not wish to part with her, but I prevailed at length.

I do not suppose you will be able to make out this scrawl. I am very weary this evening having had much to do this day. The Ribbons came safe shall give Mrs. Johnson an account of them next conveyance. Give my respectful compliments to Mr. Stokes. I would have wrote him but he may expect one by the next ship. I want to give him some account of the progress of Agriculture our Coal Mines &c &c.

I have the honor to remain

Dr Madam Yours resptfy
Saml Marsden.

No. 11.

Parramatta
New South Wales
Novr. 13th 1802

My dear Madam

It is with pleasure I take up my pen to acknowledge the receipt of your two last letters and the parcell received by the Atlas for which I return you my sincere thanks. The things were exceedingly useful but consider them as the strongest proof I am not forgot by so good a woman.

I rejoice that Mr. and Mrs. Johnson reached England in safety and had an happy meeting with their friends. Am glad to find from Mrs. Kent that Mr. Johnson has recovered his health so well and trust that before this they are settled comfortable and to

their own wishes. I daily regret the loss of Mrs. Johnson's society from this county so much so that I have not visited Sydney but once since she left it and that was to wean my little girl Elizabeth. Our society of married ladies increase, there are now twenty. There never were so many at a time since the Colony was established. I wished I could say we increased in divine things, but we still continue in the same depraved state as ever. You who have so many privileges can have no idea of our situation.

You have no doubt heard what an affliction we have been visited with in the melancholy death of our dear little boy. We was going to the farm a servant was driving him and me in a single horse chaise. Mr. Marsden was on horseback when a man twenty yards from our own home carelessly run a wheelbarrow directly under the wheel of the chaise and overturned it, and my dear child never stirred more. I received no hurt myself though I was but two months of my time. I am conscious that his was a happy translation yet hear Madam picture to yourself my feelings to have him in health and spirits and the next moment to behold him in the arms of Death. I was wonderfully supported and had one consolation which the world cannot give neither take away. He who is faithful has promised when thou passest through the waters I will be with thee and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee. God is a refuge & strength, a very present help in time of need. This is the first time I have taken up my pen to write to England since I lost him though it is now fifteen months. I am afraid I am very sinful. I often think could I know his little thoughts he would reprove me for wishing him back in this troublesome world, but his removal has stirred me up to be more earnest in Divine things, and though he cannot come to me I may meet him in that place, where sin & sorrow and sighing are fore ever done away. I have still one little girl & boy with me the youngest John is a little turned of a twelve month old. This letter will be delivered by Mrs. Johnson the Surgeons wife that left England a little after us who I believe you saw. I was very much disappointed in your letter that you did not mention in what part of the world Mr. Edward was, if he is with you beg my kind respects to him. Mrs. Hughes arrived safe here, they reside in Sydney.¹⁶ The Governor gave him a superintendents place soon after their arrival so that I seldom see her. Mr. Marsden joins me with best respects to Mr. Stokes & family. Let me intreat to be remembered in your prayers

And believe me
Yours with respect
E. Marsden.¹⁷

No. 12.

Parramatta
April 27th 1803.

Dear Madam

I once more sit down to drop you a line. As we are at all times exceeding glad to hear from you it may give you the same pleasure to hear from this part of the world. Last Easter Sunday I consecrated my church at Parramatta. This building proves a great comfort to my mind as I can now perform a divine service in a manner becoming the worship of Almighty God. At Sydney there is no place for public worship and I fear will be none for a long time to come. I do my duty with great reluctance there and few

¹⁶ This letter is endorsed "By favor of Mrs Thomas."

¹⁷ This probably refers to the wife of Matthew Hughes, who in 1800 was appointed by Governor Hunter schoolmaster at Kissing Point. See *Historical Records of New South Wales*, Vol. IV., p. 75.

¹⁸ In 1803, Father Dixon, deported for aiding the 1798 rebellion, was for a time conditionally emancipated and allowed to exercise his priestly functions. The privilege was withdrawn in 1804.

attend for want of accommodation. It is that perhaps was ever known since we became a nation professing Godliness.

Government have granted one of the Roman priests who was sent a prisoner from Ireland permission to perform the Catholic service here.¹⁸ I am apprehensive this toleration will be productive of some serious evils. Satan has still his friends in the world and maintains his cause in every quarter. I did not expect to see his kingdom strengthened among us by the addition of the Roman religion. God is all wise and he governs & orders all things according to his own will. I cannot but lament the evils I have not power to prevent. It has been with many years labor and patience I have got a temple erected. It has also been built in troublesome times and had many to oppose it. Sometimes I contested against those who opposed my church and sometimes I craved their aid. At length I have had the honor and happiness to dedicate it to the worship of God and shall retain a grateful sense of his goodness in opening the way to have it completed so far.

I am surprised no Clergyman comes out in the place of my former Colleague Mr. Johnson. He tells me he has no inclination to visit us again and that none has been appointed to succeed him. The political state of the Colony is much changed since my friends departure. The measures adopted by the Government have made very many poor who were lately in better circumstances. I have no cause myself to complain. God has blessed me in my Basket in my Store. I may say he has given me all things richly to enjoy.

I labor hard but the toils of the day makes rest sweet at night so that the morning finds me ready for my task. My spirits and strength seldom fail me. I should be happy in a colleague as I am constrained to travel from Sydney to Parramatta every Sabbath which is 16 miles and preach in both places. Another clergyman would ease me in this respect and some others.

I am making great progress in my Orchard and Garden. I have got many hundred of different Fruit Trees and great abundance of some kinds of fruit. I made more than 60 Gallons of Cider this year which promises to be very good. This was made from peaches, though we have apples they are not of the cider kind. I have Hops also growing now well. The vines have run more than two feet. A man of the name of John Fleming is gone to England in the "Glatton." He is an uncommon clever man as a gardener & botanist. Should he call upon you he will give you a better idea than any person you have seen of this Colony. He was a prisoner here but an honest man cannot perhaps be found in England. I have requested him to make a small collection for me of such things as he knows I want. Should he return to this colony I should wish him to call upon you and then he will learn what kind of seeds & plants you would wish to have. Mrs. Marsden and my little family are well. She returns thanks for all favors and joins me in the kindest respects to Mr Stokes and yourself.

I remain

Dear Madam

With the greatest respect

Yours

Saml Marsden.¹⁹

No. 13.

Parramatta
March 13th 1804.

¹⁸

¹⁹ This letter is endorsed "Per John Fleming – London."

Dr Madam

I received yours by the Calcutta and need not inform you we were exceeding glad to hear from you. The seeds you wrote for Mrs. Marsden has put up in a small box with some others, which I hope you will receive safe. I have sent them by one of the officers of the Calcutta, to whom I refer you for information of this Colony. This gentleman can give Mr. Stokes a particular account of the wild cattle, he having paid two visits to the Cow pastures. Mrs. Marsden has visited them once about a month ago. Where the wild cattle feed, it is the finest country the imagination can conceive, the hills and vales are so beautiful. It was my intention to have sent you a good collection of seeds by the Calcutta, but have been prevented from collecting them by the Irish rebels, they have given us some trouble lately and put the Colony in much danger. I hope they are subdued for the present – they had laid a plan for a general insurrection, fortunately for us it did not succeed. I am truly sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Goff & also of poor Milbah Johnson – both Mr. and Mrs. Johnson would be greatly afflicted. I can feel for them having lost two fine boys myself. They are not lost, in that glorious morning of the Resurrection of the just, we shall all meet again – Parents & Children shall see each other if numbered amongst the Saints they part no more for ever. If we are conducted to glory from this seive of iniquity it will [be] an eternal wonder. I often think I must return to England and enjoy the society of God's people again before my soul can have any bright prospects of Glory. The thought may be vain, because God's power is infinite, and he is everywhere present. Everything here is so unlike religion, so unlike God & his glory. I often feel an anxious wish to see my native land, but when the time will come I know not. Government seems not to pay much attention to religion here, as they send me no assistance. My duty is very hard, the Colony is become very extensive now, and a great number of people in it, with only myself as a Minister. Should any come, I hope he will be a pious man and hearty in the cause of God. I wish you would inform me particularly what you want, & if I can get it here, you shall have it – the great difficulty is to get an honest man to take what we wish to send without stealing it. My private letters are sometimes stolen, and if not stolen, opened by some person unknown. The greatest rogues in the world come and go from this Colony. If you ever get a letter it must be a chance business. I think you will get this safe, the young man has too much honour to neglect delivering it should he come himself. You will give my kindest respects to Mr Hollis with Mrs. M's.

I have the honour to be DearMadam

Yours respectfully

Samuel Marsden.

P.S. – Mrs. Marsden begs Miss Stokes' acceptance of a little netting box made of the wood of this country which you will find in the box of seeds.

No. 14.

[Undated.]

Dear Madam²⁰

As a gentleman is returning from this Colony to London I shall just drop you a line to let you know we are well and anxiously expecting to hear from England. C. Grimes Esqre who will deliver you this will inform you how we are going on – his stay in England probably will be but very short, as his duty will require him to return by an early conveyance. I am very uneasy at times about Mr. Johnsons affairs in this Colony

²⁰ This letter, NO. 14, has neither place nor date. The postmark, however, is "Au-10-1804."

since the failure of the Paymaster of the N.S.W. Corps.²¹ He was considerably in debt to Mr. Johnson. I had done my utmost to obtain the money for him, & believe he will be one of the least sufferers of Mr. Cox's creditors considering the sum he left me to recover for him. Mr. Johnson unless he was to visit us again could not believe the great change in the political state of the Colony. Many things are altered for the better. I shall be happy should I ever live to see religion flourish amongst us – there is no prospect of this. I often think the Gospel, if we may judge from appearances in the settlement, was only intended for children, the common soldier, & the convict in irons. The military officers will march the soldiers to the church door, & then return, the gaoler will unlock his cells & turn his prisoners out to public worship, but has no idea of attending himself. Such is the afflicting situation I am placed in, my soul is pained within me, I cannot but mourn for the abominations that are committed in the land. With respect to temporal things, we have abundance in the Colony. Our present crops are very promising, and cultivation goes on very fast. Our flocks and herds increase and multiply very fast. Our flocks and herds increase and multiply very much – beef & mutton will soon be very plentiful. This country will at some future period become great, from the richness of its soil and the healthiness of its climate. I have no complaint to prefer on temporal accounts, I labour hard, enjoy my health & family. I generally go weary to bed, my rest is very sweet, and the morning finds me ready for the toils of the day. I feel a longing for my native land, and wish to revisit Old England again – it cannot be yet, but I hope the time will come when I shall have that happiness. We have got an addition to our family of another boy about two months ago. Mrs. M. is very well – she is very contented in her situation – suffers little affliction either of body or mind – she rides a good deal for amusement and exercise on horse back, being a good horsewoman – she will ride to Sydney and return the same day which is 20 miles, very well. I keep a good horse entirely for her use and convenience. We have not much agreeable society, and therefore endeavour to supply the want of it in the most pleasant manner we can. We shall be happy to hear from you at all times – and believe me

Dear Madam, to remain

Yours in every Christian respect

S. Marsden

Mrs. M. joins me in kind remembrance to Mr. Stokes & your family.

No. 15.

Parramatta
New South Wales
15th Jany 1805.

My dear Madam

It is so long since I have had the pleasure of hearing from you that at times I think you have forgotten us, which if the case would give me great uneasiness. The last letter I wrote you was by the Calcutta favored by Mr. ____²² who promised to call on you and deliver a letter and small box containing some native pears & for Miss Stokes made of the Beef Wood and a few other things which I hoped would be acceptable as they were not common.

You no doubt wonder how we are going on. Much in the old dull and uncomfortable way with respect to appearance. There is more attention payed to the Sabbath. Mr. Marsden has both at Sydney and at Parramatta a very large congregation which is voluntary, so that by degrees they may be brought to fear his name and we do

²¹ The paymaster was William Cox.

²² This name is illegible. It seems to be "Courtire," or "Countire."

not know what the Lord may do for this Colony. He may yet raise up a faithful people to publish his name and though I may not live to see it yet it is a consoling hope that he will not entirely forsake this place, which at times I am almost tempted to think he will do for its great wickedness. You who live in the midst of Gospel blaze know not what it is to live among a people entirely ignorant of God and his ways. At times I feel so dead and lifeless that I think I have never been a child of God and doubt whether I shall ever enjoy those seasons of grace which has afforded me such real comfort. Let me beg dear Madam an interest in your prayers, that I may be enabled so to run that I may receive the prize of everlasting life.

Permit me to return you my sincere thanks for your kind attention to my dear Ann when she was in London. Mrs. Scott wrote me of your handsome present to her. I am anxiously looking for a ship from England as it is a twelvemonth since I have had letters from Yorkshire.

Poor Mrs. Johnson I feel much for her, it was a hard trial to part with so fine a girl as Milbah but the Lord knows what is best for his children.

My family is the same in number as when I wrote last – a girl & boy. Elizabeth grows a great girl and it is time she was in England, but I do not think I can muster courage to part with her. Charles is also an engaging little fellow and I trust he will be spared to us.

Mrs. Hughes begs her kind respects to you. When I see her she always enquires when I have heard from you. I believe I sent you word before that her husband is Master Blacksmith at Sydney, and what with their salary and other indulgences they are very comfortable.

Mr. Marsden joins with me in kind remembrances to Mr. Stokes & family

And accept the same

From dear Madam

Your obliged friend

E. Marsden.²³

No. 16.

Hull²⁴ Decr 7 1808.

Dear Madam

I have the pleasure to inform you that I arrived safe in Hull on Sunday morning, and found Mrs. M. & the children well – and this afternoon Mrs. M. was brought to bed of a daughter, both her and the child through mercy are likely to do well; it was a great satisfaction to her, that I was so fortunate to be with her at home at the time. The Lord orders all things well – he suffers us to be tried to shew us how weak and foolish we are, and afterwards rewards us with his delivering mercy. With respect to myself, though my passage has not been smooth through life, yet I do not see one single circumstance that has befallen me at any time, that would justify the smallest murmur against the Divine Conduct – “Goodness & mercy have followed me all my days.” I have had a great share of human happiness, and temporal comforts, much more than falls to the lot of mankind in general. I think I may say with humility that I feel satisfied with all God’s dealings with me, and grateful lying down and rising up; going out, & coming in. Much evil still remains within unsubdued – and much unbelief. I

²³ This letter is endorsed: “If you will please to send your Letters to William Wilson Esqr. Monument Yard, London, they will be forwarded to Mr Marsden.”

²⁴ By permission of Governor Bligh, Marsden was allowed to leave on a trip to England early in 1807. He thus escaped participation in the Bligh rebellion. He sailed again from Spithead on 25th August, 1809.

want more of the pure spirit of religion, that heavenly love, that meekness of wisdom. I do not feel that esteem for the Saviour of the world my soul wishes and longs for. He has not that place in my affections which his love demands. I think I do not feel very anxious about this world, and its trifling concerns – and can in some measure say with Jacob of old, “If God will be with me and will keep me in the way that I shall go, & give me meat to eat, and raiment to put on, then shall the Lord be my God.” I will know that I have much to do yet with unreasonable and wicked men & shall have frequent cause to pray “Deliver me O God out of the hand of the ungodly, out of the hand of the wicked & cruel men.” When I look back & view past circumstances I cannot recollect an instance where the ungodly did me a serious injury – but many where their wrath hath turned to my advantage. It is our privilege to go on in the path of duty, and God will take care of us, & do us good in spite of earth and hell. I wrote a line to Miss Amey before Mrs. M. was confined – will you have the goodness to inform her and Miss Searle when you see them. Mrs. M. expresses a strong desire to communicate the news to them both as well as to yourself. Accept my acknowledgments for your many kind attentions, and present my best respects to all your family, and believe me to be

Dear Madam

Yours sincerely

Saml. Marsden.²⁵

Excuse haste.

No. 17.

On Board the “Ann”
Rio Decr. 1 1809.

Dear Sir,

Your will have heard of our safe arrival at Rio before this comes to hand. We intended to have sailed yesterday morning and got nearly out when the wind came against us and we were compelled to drop our Anchor again. This morning we shall sail if possible.

I have not been able to get the seeds which I intended to have sent from here as they are not ripe at this season. Lady Gambier has promised to make a collection for me as they come in and I have requested her to give them to a Mr. Harris one of the Missionaries who is here, and intends to return to England in about six weeks. Mr. Harris has been a schoolmaster many years in New South Wales. Should Mr. Harris bring the seeds which I think he will I will thank you to give some of them to Mr. L. at Hackney, some to Mr. Brown at the Botanic Gardens in Cambridge and a few to Mr. John Terry, Hull. Some you will keep for yourself such as you like. My cattle got out to New South Wales very safe. I have seven Spanish sheep with me on board the “Ann” two males & five females. Two Hives of Bees I found in Rio and shall attempt to take them out. The Gooseberry and Currants I took from England are also alive and I think it probably I shall get them out.

I am happy to say we are all well and in good spirits. Captain Brooks came in yesterday from England – he is bound also for New South Wales. We have been more than one month here. This City is much changed since we were here about two years ago. Plantations are much dearer and many other things. The English change all the markets wherever they go.

Mrs. M. unites with me in kindest respects to Mrs. Stokes and all your family. I have just sent you these few lines in haste.

²⁵ This letter is endorsed: “To be left at Mrs Amey’s, No. 8 Ivy Lane, Newgate Street.”

I remain

Dear Sir

Yours sincerely

Saml. Marsden

P.S. – We have found our accommodations excellent and have been very happy with the Captain.

No. 18.

Parramatta
May 4th 1810.

My dear Sir

I am persuaded you will be glad to hear of our safe arrival in New South Wales after a very pleasant passage of twenty weeks at sea. I was much astonished to find Governor Bligh still in the Colony and the 102nd Regt containing many of my old friends. We met with a very kind reception from the inhabitants in general. They expressed much pleasure at our return, many had been great sufferers during the Revolution. I believe both parties will have little more than vexation Trouble and expense. The Colony at large has been much injured and its prosperity checked. It will require some time to recover so very severe a shock. The only thing that has apparently increased during my absence is the horned cattle. Notwithstanding the great slaughter that has been made they are become very numerous. Fine beef is now sold to Government for victualling the Troops at nine-pence per lb and will in a short time be much less. It is the finest Country in the world for Cattle, y stock has done well in my absence, and all my servants have behaved well. I found them all as I left them excepting one man. I think this is very much to the credit of men who are or have been convicts, that such a number of them should do their duty for three years without their masters eye. I am also happy to inform you that I have got in a very fine state the Gooseberry currant and vine. I also took out two hives of Bees from Rio and got them out safe but am afraid that many of them are dead since. I have had so much to attend to since we landed that I really forgot them and left them in the Governors garden, where I fear the heavy rains have injured them. I took five Spanish sheep from Portsmouth which I received as a present from his Majesty, four of these I landed safe and two lambs. I think I have been exceeding fortunate in all these valuable things. Many more useful things I have collected and have introduced into the Colony. Every little adds to our stock. I hope the settlement will now have a little quiet and then it will get on well. Money is very scarce in the settlement. The Revolution has checked Agriculture so much that there is not grain sufficient grown for the support of the Inhabitants so that we are compelled to send to India for wheat.

Hassall²⁶ I find has only remitted one Hundred pounds for the goods which were sent to him and that in a private Bill. This Bill may be paid and I hope it will as the woman who is in this Country had considerable property in England as her uncle informed me whom I saw at Woolwich and who called upon me about her, but I do not like private Bills. I shall endeavour to get Hassall to remit the remainder in Government money.

The Revolution has injured the colony much and almost ruined many. It has been a means of preventing Hassall getting Government bills, as the Bills drawn by those who had usurped the Government were not considered good. I am sorry for your disappointment but you need not be under any apprehension of losing the money.

²⁶ The Rev. Robert Hassall, assistant to Marsden at Parramatta.

Mr. Oaks²⁷ the bearer of this will give you any further information you may wish. Mr. Oaks was head constable here and is ordered home as an evidence upon the arrest of the late Governor Bligh and will return again when that business is settled. Mr. M unites with me in kind remembrances to Mr. Stokes Mrs. and Mr. Hughes and all your family.

I am

Dear Sir

Yours much obliged
Samuel Marsden.

No. 19.

Parramatta
Nov 26th 1811.

My very dear Sir,

I have sent you by the bearer Mr. John Grant a drawing of one of my horses as you have a drawing of the Bull. He is a very fine animal and fit for any nobleman. I saw few superior when in England. His grandfather and grandmother both came from India. She was the best for the road we ever had in the country, would trot 15 miles in an hour. I shall some day perhaps send you a drawing of a Ram, you will then have the heads of my flocks, herds and horses. My English Cow & Bull are very fine. The officers of the 73rd Regt brought a Cow along with them from England. This I purchased on my arrival. I offered them £40 stg for her which was a temptation they could not pass over. I thought her cheap and we were all satisfied.

The Cow I sent out has brought me two female Calves, and is now in Calf again, and that I bought from the officers one. I shall soon have a fine herd of English cattle. I have got most of the artificial grasses now growing which are cultivated in England. One field all English grass, I have mowed and made into hay. Were you now to visit us you would imagine you were in England, excepting the pleasure you would feel in breathing a pure air.

By the Admiral Gambier I have sent to England 4,000 to 5,000 lbs of wool. This will be the beginning of the commerce of this new World. Many think nothing of these things now. They cannot see any advantage to be derived to them, their children, or this settlement by improving the fleeces of our Sheep. But I anticipate immense National wealth to spring from this source of Commerce in time. The ant though it is a small creature, yet we see their numbers uniting together raising large Hillocks, particularly here. The Bee can carry but little honey, but in time the Hive is filled. When I consider we have not much less than 50,000 Sheep in the settlement, and that these 50,000 Sheep will produce while I sleep or wake as many fleeces of wool. It is a National object to attend to them. Should their fleeces be worth no more than as many dollars, yet the slave condemned to the mines must sweat and toil and dig for a long time before he can drag from the bowels of the earth so much wealth.

I have produced fleeces of very fine wool this year weighing 3 ½ & 4 lb each. What can be done in one instance in this respect may in 10,000. The wars on the Continent of Europe must eventually open New Channels of Commerce. Spain may never recover her former greatness with respect to her wool. She may never be able to replenish her flocks and to bring them into the productive state that they were before the present war. What may be the state of their flocks at the close of the present contest we cannot tell. It is our duty to leave future events to the wisdom of Him who knows all things from the beginning and to act for the present moment. My views may be too

²⁷ Francis Oakes, Chief Constable at Parramatta. It was he who arrested John Macarthur.

extended when they anticipate the greatness and wealth of this Country in future, the civilization of the surrounding savage Nations and the cultivation of their Islands. Everything must have a beginning, the foundation must be laid before the house can be built. I think you will hear of wheat and other kinds of grain being grown in New Zealand before two years are over. My friend one of the chiefs who has lived with me and acquired a knowledge of agriculture will introduce cultivation among his countrymen.²⁸ This will add greatly to their civilization and comfort and prepare the way for greater blessings. I may be too fond perhaps of the garden, the field and the fleece. These would be the first object of my attention was I placed among a savage nation. The man who introduced the potato into Ireland and England merited more from those nations than any General who may have slain thousands of their enemies.

Divine goodness has intimated that a time shall come when men shall beat their swords into plough shares and their spears into pruning hooks. Then agriculture will be the principal occupation of mankind. I think we should enjoy as much as this promise now as the world will allow us. Men who can, should all beat their swords into plough shares, and follow the simple life found only in the field and garden. I have attended to your recommendation with respect to enclosing my grounds and have fenced in more than 100 acres since my return. Ever since my arrival I have retired from the bustle and noise of Politics. They may contend who like to contend, I wish to live a quiet life and gratify my natural inclinations which I trust will injure no person. I mentioned in a former letter Mrs. Marsden's affliction.²⁹ She is now a little better and can ride about with me in the chaise. I am in hopes she will continue to recover. All the children are well. Remember us kindly to Mrs. Stokes Mrs. Hughes and all your family. Mr. Hassall remitted you some money and I hope the bills have been paid.

Mr. Wilson's failure has unsettled my little plans in England. Till I get my accounts settled with him or his assignees, I shall not know how to act. I expect to hear from him soon.

I had almost forgotten to mention the bearer of this letter, Mr. Grant. He was transported to this country some years ago in consequence of firing at a gentleman, whom he had challenged and who had refused to fight him. The difference originated about a young woman to whom he was attached. His case was always considered a hard one in this Colony. His conduct has been very good strictly moral and sober. There is a wildness about him probably occasioned by his troubles. I have no wish that you should pay any particular attention to him as he has friends in London, and it might not be pleasant to you. I pitied his poor mother who I saw in London and interested myself about him. He was sent out for life but his pardon has been obtained from the governor.

I am

Dear Sir

Your most obt Servant

Samuel Marsden.

P.S. – Will you have the goodness at some time or other to show Mr. Goode of Caroline Place the drawing of the Horse.

No. 20.

Parramatta
Nov 7th 1812.

Dear Madam,

²⁸ This was the Maori, Duaterra.

²⁹ Mrs. Marsden had suffered a paralytic stroke.

I shall not have time to write to Mr. Thomas Stokes. I did not know but the a/c had been settled between Mr. Hassall and him, till I received his letter. He will however receive the whole amount by this conveyance in a bill upon his Majesty's Treasury. The Revolution has very much injured the private affairs of some but will prove a great benefit to the Colony at large. It has been owing to the state of the Colony that the money was not paid long since. I was sorry in my own mind that I had recommended Mr. Hassall without first knowing what would be the pecuniary state of the Colony. I cannot but blame myself a little for not calling upon Mr. Hassall before and knowing positively that the money had been paid.

You will have heard of our affliction on account of Mrs. Marsden. This is a very heavy trial and loss to me. None knew the value of such a companion as she has been to me. I am thankful that she is spared and is something better. She is able to walk about a little, and can make herself understood, and manage the family to a certain extent. One hand is in a great measure useless and she is very lame, complains frequently of pains in her head. It was a great blessing that I took out with me a female servant Mrs. Bishop. She proves a very valuable woman in my little family and is such a comfort to Mrs. Marsden as she is a sensible woman and a very faithful servant. Providence is particularly kind to us and always has been – the Lord will provide. I have no cause to complain of the Divine Goodness. He has blessed me in my going out and my coming in in my basket and in my store we have all good things now to enjoy. My return to England will I trust be the means of laying the foundation of Christs Church upon so firm a foundation that Satan shall never be able to overturn it in this part of the world. We have now cleared the Colony of all the catholic priests have schools established in almost every district so that the rising generation will be brought up in the principles of the Protestant religion. We have 5 pious schoolmasters and with my two colleagues I hope something will be done.

I shall always be happy to hear that you and your family are well and of Mr. and Mrs. Hughes. You have the prospect of leaving behind you a seed to serve the Lord. May the good Lord add to their number, till not a single slough is left behind in Egypt. The times with you appear to us from the public prints to be awful. God is punishing the Inhabitants of the World for their wickedness in a very distressing manner. What will be the end of these things. I think we are happy in being at such a distance from the seat of war and all its calamities. Our settlement abounds with plenty. I wish you could take some of our surplus grain. We had many thousands of bushels this year which we could not consume. Our harvest is just at hand and very heavy crops and our Stores in a great measure full. We have about 20,000 head of Cattle and about 50,000 Sheep. I think this will in time become one of the finest countries in the world. I wish many of my pious friends were as well provided for as we are. I hope Mr. Stokes is well. Give my kind respects to him and to all your family and to Mr. and Mrs. Hughes. I feel grateful to you all for your past attentions.

Should the Revd. Mr. Foster be still alive give our most affectionate regards to him and Miss Searle. All my daughters unite with me in best wishes for you and yours.

I am

Dear Madam

Yours respectfully

Samuel Marsden.³⁰

No. 21.

Parramatta June 18th 1813.

³⁰ Endorsed: "Rec'd Feb'y 28th 1814, answer'd in July or August 1814."

My dear Madam

A ship being on the point of sailing my Mama is not willing to let another opportunity pass without making some acknowledgment to you and your family for your kindness to us when we were in England; you have no doubt before this heard of my Mama's severe indisposition, which prevents her from writing this herself, she has now been two years afflicted, and tho' her health is much recovered, is yet far from being well: she feels severely every change of weather, & having lost the use of her right arm, is deprived of every means of employing herself. If you have heard of the female missionaries I know you will feel interested in their welfare – I am sorry to inform you that two died soon after their arrival at Otaheite, Mrs. Davis in child-bed, and Mrs. Haywood of a dropsical complaint. Poor Mrs. Henry is also dead; she came out in the Duff with Mr. Cover. My Mama regrets her death very much and is afraid it will be felt severely as she was of a true missionary spirit. Mr. Henry came to Port Jackson for another wife, and was married last week: he brings the welcome tidings that Pomare the King of Otaheite & some of his subjects have embraced Christianity; even religion in our part of the world wears a fairer aspect than formerly – the Governor is a great friend to the Gospel, tho' not pious, yet he is what the world calls a very moral man which is much more than any of his predecessors; he has also made great improvements in the Colony particularly at Sydney. Mr. Cowper & family are very well, also Mr. Cartwright.³¹ Mrs. C. & all her children are spending a short time with us at Parramatta. I am afraid you will find very little amusement in this letter, but I hope, my dear Mrs. Stokes will excuse it, my apology must be I was afraid she should think we had all forgot our Gutter Lane friends. My Papa and Mama unite with me in best regards to you and Mr. Stokes, & will thank you to remember us to Mr. & Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Foster, & Mrs. Amey, begging you will accept the same, My dear Madam,

from yours ever affectionately

A. Marsden.

[A postscript follows containing a request for Mrs. J. to send out different articles of ladies' dress.]³²

No. 22.

Parramatta
June 25th 1813.

Dear Madam

Mrs. Marsden has requested me to write to you for a few Ribbons Sewing Silk &c. You will know what she will want. She will also thank you to send to Mr. Green Glover Newport St for about £5 worth of gloves. Mrs. Green knows what sort to send. I have directed Mr. Alexander Birnie to let you have £25 to pay for the Ribbons &c. You will have the goodness to send to Mr. Birnie for the money before you send the things out. He lives in great St Helens. Mr. Wilsons failing greatly deranged my little plans when in England and has given me some concern. I perhaps in the end shall not be any great sufferer but this I cannot tell as I have received no a/c either of the remittances which I sent home amounting to upwards of £1000 nor of my Salary since the day I left England. Till I can obtain this I shall remain ignorant of my private affairs in England. I hope Mrs. Birnie will furnish me with this in time. I hope Mr. Stokes received the money I sent him on Mr. Hassall's a/c for the balance of his Account.

I am happy to say Mrs. M is much recovered all the rest of my family are well. My colleagues and families are well, and schoolmasters. We have now a prospect of

³¹ The Rev. William Cowper and the Rev. Robert Cartwright, assistant Anglican ministers.

³² "Rec'd Feb'y 28th 1814."

doing good. A wonderful change has taken place since my return with respect to the Moral situation of the Colony. The Governor is very attentive to the Sabbath day and is a very moral man. A very good understanding has existed between him & me for some time past, he very readily meets all my wishes with respect to the good order and moral improvement of the Inhabitants. I must now work while it is day. I have applied for three more Clergymen and some Schoolmasters. Should you know of any that will answer me, will you communicate their names to Mr. Wilberforce. I have written to him on the subject. I am certain Government will allow of two more clergymen should none be sent out before this arrives.

This will become a great country in time and the Wool will soon make a remittance to the mother country. I send home by this vessel more than 8,000 lb. The last I sent to England averaged 3/9d per lb. What this will sell for I know not. Our wool will be fine in time. I always foresaw that wool would be of vast importance to this settlement and have now convinced the farmer here so that they will now attend to their flocks.

You will hear that King Pomare has embraced Christianity.³³

The New Zealand Chief who lived with me has at length got to his native land. I have heard the most flattering accounts of him and trust that he will open the way for the introduction of the Gospel into that Island.

God had very important designs in view when he induced the British Government to establish a colony here. Give my kindest respects to Mrs. Stokes your sons Thomas, Charles & George and also to Mr. and Mrs. Hughes and the Revd. Mr. Forster & Miss Searle in which Mrs. M. most cordially unites.

I am

Dr. Madam

Yours most respectfully
Samuel Marsden.

No. 23.

Parramatta
October 8th 1814.

Dear Sir

I received your last and we were glad to hear that you and your family were all pretty well.

By this conveyance I have sent you the first pair of stockings made in this Colony from my Spanish Wool. I have also sent you samples of wool from some of my sheep. Five samples from five Rams and two from two Ewes. From these you will see the quality of our wool. I have made great progress since my return in the improvement of my flocks. I have for years been convinced that the Wool would be the Gold mines of this Country and of vast national importance and I trust a spirit of improvement will be excited through the farmers of this Colony to grow fine wool. We must have an export or the Settlement will never prosper and this promises to be the first. I have also sent you a sample of Cotton Wool grown in the South Sea Islands. With a little encouragement the Natives of Otaheite and the other Islands would grow great quantities. You will also find one Skeen of thread made from the Flax which I had lately brought from New Zealand. This is a natural production of that Island and may turn to great national account.

³³ Pomare announced his conversion to Christianity on 18th July, 1812. See Johnstone: *Samuel Marsden*, p. 106 and note.

You will learn from other accounts that it is my intention to visit that Island in a little time. No doubt but many natural productions will be found there advantageous for Commerce when that Country is once examined. We greatly want a person here in authority who has a turn for examining the Islands in these Seas. I am fully convinced that there will be found in them many valuable articles. With respect to this Colony it improves fast and must be in time a great Country. The Mountains have lately been crossed which hitherto had prevented all communication between the present settlements and the Country beyond them. A number of men are now employed making a road over the mountains as a pass has been found. The country is said to be very fine beyond them. One Gentleman travelled more than 100 miles after he had passed the Mountains and found the Country very good, and a fine river running through it towards the west and abounding in fish. I have no doubt but when we get into the Country beyond the Mountains we shall find some of the finest ground and very probably some large rivers which may empty themselves into the Sea on the west side of New Holland. The road is now completed on the Mountains which extend near 30 miles and I wish much to visit them and that part of the Country but shall not be able till my return from New Zealand as the passage will not be opened before I sail.

We are getting on with good schools for the Children in all the districts. I am now putting a roof upon a Female Orphan House at Parramatta which will contain about 200 Girls. It is a noble building. If the young girls are only taken care of and kept from vice the Colony will prosper as it will be the principal means of checking the growing national sins by checking the vicious inclinations of young men. No young man need be afraid to marry here lest he should not be able to provide for a family. In a new country like this there are always plenty of means at hand for a man to support himself & those belonging to him.

I have just wrote these few lines in great haste. We all beg to be kindly remembered to Mrs. Stokes and all the branches of your family. I shall ever entertain a grateful remembrance of your past kind attentions. Mrs. M. is a little better she often mentions Mrs. Stokes with the warmest affection.

I remain

Dear Sir

Yours very sincerely

Samuel Marsden.

No. 24.

Parramatta
15th June 1815.

Dear Madam,

I had the pleasure to receive your kind letter and was happy to learn that your late dear husband towards the setting of his Sun was not without hope. It must be a great consolation to you mind to entertain the pleasing idea that the Father of Mercies looked down upon him when he was in want of His aid. I always esteemed him much for his sound mind and good understanding. As a man few possessed a stronger mind, and I always saw in him a shy partiality for pious men, he could not but esteem those whom he believed to be possessed by true Religion. God is good unto Israel and we may expect His blessing upon our fervent prayers in the end. My own life has been checquered with various Scenes, I have seen much of the kind providences of God in times of danger and trouble. Had I known the warfare I should have had to maintain in the beginning of the Christian life, I should have chosen strangling and death rather than have entered upon it. However one contest got over another comes, but by and

bye they will all have an end. I know the place I fill in Society is my own. I am not out of my station, and therefore I may expect to meet with all needful support and comfort. I have written often to you and yours, but my letters may have been lost at sea as several vessels have from our Country. If you do not hear from us you must not conclude that you are not kindly remembered by us all. We bear an affectionate regard for our pious friends in England and talk and think of them with much satisfaction.

I have lately visited New Zealand and spent a little time with the inhabitants.³⁴ It has long been my ardent wish to form a little settlement among that Noble Race of People, and at length I have accomplished that object and hope that the first foundation stone is now laid for a Christian Church to be built upon and that the Gates of Hell shall never prevail against it. These poor heathens are literally without hope and without God in the World. You will perhaps hear some account of these people and their Islands as I have transmitted my account to the Church Missionary Society, who probably may make some part of it public.³⁵ I sat down and conversed with these people as a man with his friend and then laid down amongst them and slept in safety. When I viewed the men whom I knew had massacred, and afterwards eat our people particularly in the case of Boyd,³⁶ I cannot express what my feelings were, how dreadfully has been debased the human mind, where men were intelligent, kind, and friendly and shewed a readiness to do every thing that was proper and yet could be guilty of a crime so repugnant to the feelings of nature.

Amongst heathen Nations we may see more into the dreadful nature of sin, than in civilized nations. But are we better than they – In no wise – Though we may not be Cannibals we may be Murderers, and we are unbelievers and guilty of all other crimes. I am persuaded the inhabitants of New Zealand will become a great and powerful nation when once the Light of Divine Revelation begins to dawn upon them. While I was in that dark and benighted land it appeared to me as if the Christian World was situated in some intermediate state between Heaven & Earth. The happiness of the people who live in civilized Society and enjoy the Gospel is so far above that of an Heathen that those who have not seen the state of those people who are totally under the dominion of the Prince of Darkness can form no idea of. It appears to me to be a darkness that may be felt. When I returned to New South Wales and stood up in my own pulpit and viewed my congregation and compared our situation with the above Islanders, I appeared as one not upon earth. But we are not sensible of these infinite blessings because we have enjoyed them from our birth. I hope the foundation stone is now laid in New Zealand for the Church of Christ the building will be erected in time.

My soul has been so vexed with the wickedness of some in this Colony that I have been strongly tempted to leave it altogether. I have wished myself in any corner of the world only let me get from this present Society. I have spoken of it several times lately to Mrs. M. and told her I wished to be off. Her answer is “What will New Zealand do? What will the Missionaries at Olaketa do?” My burden is sometimes greater than I can bear. We have need of patience in this miserable world, and to look for our reward in the next – we are sure not to have it here. I have seen much of men and human things, few have had to contend for 20 years as I have done with men of all ranks and spotted with all crimes, and I am led to think that the Miseries of Hell will be greatly increased by all restraints being removed from the minds of the wicked. The wills and affections of sinful men are at present over ruled by an invisible agency so

³⁴ Marsden sailed for New Zealand on the *Active* on 28th November, 1814, and returned to Sydney on 23rd March of the following year.

³⁵ See *The Missionary Register*, 1816, p. 329.

³⁶ The ship *Boyd* in 1809 was seized at Whangaroa by Maoris, who massacred about sixty people, only four being spared. These were rescued by Alexander Berry with three armed boats. The *Boyd* was burnt by the natives.

that they cannot do all the evil they would. I see no other way for the Christian to act than to be resigned to the Divine Will and to commit all his ways to God. Mrs. M. received the Box you were so kind as to send her by Mr. Burnie's vessel and all her little things safe which were very acceptable to them all. We are all through mercy pretty well. Mrs. M. is considerably recovered from what she was. She has no use in one arm, but is able to attend to the concerns of the family. I was very glad that she was so far recovered as to allow me to visit New Zealand. It is wonderful how Divine Providence opens a way for me to accomplish my desires for the promotion of His Gospel. For many years I have ardently wished to visit New Zealand. I had neither pecuniary means nor could I gain permission from the Governor here – Mr. Vale coming out as a clergyman I obtained leave of absence for four months. I had previously purchased a vessel for the purpose which came to more money than I could well command. I however ventured and am now in hopes I shall soon be able to call the vessel my own by paying the remainder of the money I was compelled to borrow. I intend her to fly over these seas like the Dove with the Olive branch to carry the glad tidings of Salvation to all who have never seen anything of Civil life or known anything of the Gospel. I slept in safety among these Cannibals and was received in every part with the warmest expressions of friendship and have no doubt but these are a people who will be brought into the Church of Christ. I shall refer you to my Narrative for particulars.

.... I am afraid will not answer this Colony as a pious man. He is very light and trifling and too fond of low company. He seldom visits me or my Colleagues. I am by no means satisfied with him and have told him he had better return but am afraid he will not. Had he been a steady man he would have been very acceptable indeed.

I bed my kindest remembrance to all your family and also to Mr and Mrs. Hughes in which Mrs. M. and my daughters join and I shall be glad to hear from you at all times.

I remain

Yours very much obliged
Samuel Marsden.

No. 25.

Parramatta
March 4th 1816

My dear Mrs. Stokes

We return you many many thanks for your kind remembrances which we received by Mr. Youl. The pleasure was so much greater as it was unexpected for the time is so short since your other kind presents reached us. My Mama is much afraid that you fatigued and exerted yourself too much to get the things ready, as Mr. Youl informs us your notice was very short. He regrets extremely that his acquaintance with you did not begin when first he went to England.

I think if you could have seen Mary & Jane when they first saw the little baskets with their initials on, you would have been as much delighted as they were. Nothing but Mrs. Stokes was talked of for several days, and they were all anxious to know if they had seen you when in England even little Martha who was born here wished to claim an acquaintance with you and was quite hurt when she found she had no pretensions to it. As there was nothing marked M. M. on we gave her the little Birds Nest and I can assure you she was quite proud of her present. Elizabeth & myself admire the new card racks extremely. We are going to have a new Parsonage House built and my Mama intends to keep them to decorate the parlours with. Charles has

some thoughts of writing to thank you for the book you sent him but I much fear he will not have time. We are happy to hear such a pleasing account of Henry Johnson, that he was married and growing quite steady. I have often written letter to Mrs. J but Mr. Johnson never mentions whether they were ever received though he repeatedly writes to my father, nor does he ever enquire after our family individually. We are daily expecting the Missionaries from England for Otaheite. The "Active" sailed for that place a few weeks back with Mr. and Mrs. Crook and family on board. My fathers time is now completely occupied with the Mission. When the "Active" is in port he is almost always in Sydney preparing things to send to New Zealand or else employed with the New Zealanders who are at our house, & when she is not here he is generally engaged in writing letters to the Church Missionary Society or to other persons respecting the Mission that his own concerns are much neglected through it. Many persons wonder that his health does not suffer from so much fatigue, neither does he get so much encouragement from the *Great Folk* as he hoped he should. He is not able to establish a Church Missionary Society at all, but he intends to have another trial at the Bible Society.

I wrote you last Novr. By our friend Mr. Nicholas³⁷ but as the ship goes round by China it is most likely you will receive the letters about the same time. I hope you will see Mr. Nicholas for he spends so much of his time at our house that he will be able to give you every information respecting us and I think you will be pleased with him. In my last letter I believe I told you we were suffering greatly from want of rain, since then we have had such abundance that we have been in danger of floods. I think the climate is almost as unsettled as England though we seldom feel any effects from it, in the morning it will be intensely hot, and in the evening as Cold.

I am happy to say that my Mama enjoys her health on the whole very much, it was her speech which was affected and not her Memory that is, and always was as good as when she was first taken ill. She does not get the least strength in her arm, that still remains quite useless. She begs you will give her kind regards to Mr. and Mrs. Hughes and also requests you to remember her to Miss Janet & Miss Amy. I have nothing to write worth your reading, but it would have been unpardonable in me had I neglected this opportunity of thanking you for your kindness to us. My father is now writing to you and my Mama & Sisters send their kindest love, accept also the sincere love of

My dear Mrs. Stokes
Yours very Affectly
A. Marsden.

No. 26.

Parramatta
March 14th 1816.

My dear Madam

We had the pleasure to receive your kind remembrances for me & mine. We are always happy to hear of or from you. The Ink-stand I shall much esteem as it keeps me in mind of many pleasing circumstances that are past. I was much rejoiced to hear from you respecting your dear departed Companion and trust that your long fervent & ardent prayers were heard for him. I find that by every vessel my old friends are dropping off and that I am likely to be left alone on earth. I think little of Common acquaintance, but much where the friendship has been long and sincere. Our best Friend will not die, he remains unchangeable and to him we may at all times apply for comfort in the day of trouble. I am happy to say we are all pretty well through the Divine Mercy. I have had

³⁷ John Liddiard Nicholas, who had accompanied Marsden to New Zealand in the *Active*.

my vexations in this reign but it will soon be over now. What the next will be I know not but the spirit of the will will continue to be enmity to God and godliness and therefore I think things will be probably nearly the same to the end of life. The Lord is good and kind and gracious, and I have obtained one object that was much upon my mind by my returning, the establishment of a Mission at New Zealand. This is a great work and I trust will be attended by the Divine blessing. It has gone on well hitherto and I have only to regret the death of that great man Duaterra in whom I had placed much confidence as to managing the Mission in New Zealand but in this respect my hopes are now blasted. Probably you will see some account of his death in the Missionary Register as I sent it to the Secretary. I should be happy to spend my remaining days in New Zealand could I do this with propriety but many ties secure my stay here at present, though my life is a continuous warfare, and I have fighting without and fears within.

We have some very profane and wicked men here in power and it is impossible either to conciliate their favor or to avoid the shafts of their hatred. I know that some of my friends in England will not always approve of my public conduct but they can neither enter into my feelings nor comprehend the reasons for my actions.

I have felt myself aggrieved and have appealed unto Caesar again and again. Men in power like Religion so far as it agrees with their political measures and tends to support their dignity and consequence but no further. Ahab will never die so long as there is an Elijah on Earth, and Elijah will always be considered as one of the troubles of Israel. I shall refer to the Revd. Mr. Vales for further information respecting the Colony. Mr. Vales is now before a general Court-Martial & no doubt will return to Europe.³⁸

I do not approve of the matter that led to his arrest and trial but the higher powers must settle this, it rests between the Governor and him. Few clergymen are fit for the Colony. It is a very extraordinary place and requires much solid prudence piety and much common sense to do anything with the inhabitants. I mean the whole body those in and those out of power.

I mentioned to you in a former letter that Mr. Vale would not answer, he is not at all suited to this Colony though possessed of ability. In the present difference between Mr. Vale & the Governor I think they are both much in the wrong, the former as a Clergyman and the latter as a Governor but this time will determine. I should be sorry to do anything by which the Ministry would be blamed. I am glad Mr. Youle³⁹ has arrived as he will be a useful man where he is going. There has been no Minister in that settlement since it was established more than 10 Years ago and he is a quiet prudent man though not equal to the situation of a clergyman at Port Jackson. I wish you knew of a person whom you could recommend to come out, I am much in want of assistance. I am happy to say the Schools are going on well, I do not think there is any portion of the globe where the Common people's children are so well instructed as they are here and I feel much pleasure in seeing the young men of the Colony though born of the most depraved parents, in general sober honest and industrious and many of the poor Orphan Girls who were received into the Home married well, and become respectable mothers and members of Society. This is a very gratifying sight to me.

In about six months I hope to open a large new building at Parramatta which will contain about 200 girls as an Orphan House and then the benefits will be more extensive. I now want to see a House built for the accommodation of female convicts where they can be comfortably lodged and usefully employed.

³⁸ See Macquarie to Bathurst: *Commonwealth Historical Records*, Series I., Vol. IX., p. 45 *et seq.*

³⁹ The Rev. John Youll, who reached Port Jackson in the *Ocean* on 30th January, 1816, to become Assistant Chaplain at Port Dalrymple.

When in England I urged this object very strongly upon his grace the Archbishop and upon his Majesty's Ministers but it is not done yet. I have also remonstrated with our present Governor upon the subject but as yet nothing has been done. I have made another application to Lord Bathurst and if I cannot obtain the necessary buildings for these poor exiles (those objects of vice and woe) I have determined to lay their situation before the British Nation and then I am sure it will be done.

You will have heard of my visit to New Zealand and the reception I met with there. I shall try to send you soon a little Iron Stone, or anything of that nature I can procure as soon as I can. A Captain Brabyn⁴⁰ who now returns to England and will shortly come out again to New South Wales may probably give you a Call. He is an old acquaintance of mine, though not a pious man we have served many years together. He will bring out a letter from you should you find it convenient to write. Mrs. Marsden, my daughters, and Charles feel grateful to you for your kindness and beg to be remembered most affectionately to you and yours. Give my Christian regards to Mr. and Mrs. Hughes and Mr. Stokes

And believe me

Dear Madam

Yours in the bond of

Christian Love

Saml. Marsden.⁴¹

No. 27.

Parramatta 25th March 1817

My dear Mrs. Stokes,

I always willingly obey my Mother when she requests me to write to you, for I know that the goodness of your heart makes you interested with all our welfare, and that a few lines from any of us will not be unwelcomely received. I am happy to inform you that the box, which was retained so long in England arrived safe, some of the things (except the lilac silk) were in the least damaged. How much does your kindness my dear Madam make us all indebted to you, for have we not individually received tokens of remembrance from you. My Mother says that you are still the same good Mrs. Stokes you were, as when she first knew you, & that she has now for more than twenty years been continually receiving some proof of your affection for her. Accept our best thanks for so many favours – I hope you had the letters safe we forwarded by Mr. Nicholas. The bearer of this is a young friend of ours⁴² who is going home with the intention of entering College. During his stay in London how much shall we feel obliged by your sometimes allowing him to visit you. I believe he is a truly pious young man, & the hopes of his being useful to this Colony some years hence (should his life be spared) induced him to leave his friends. He is the son of Mr. Hassall, who came out in the Duff, as a Missionary to Otaheite, you have heard of him no doubt. I think you will be pleased to hear that a Bible Society was formed at Sydney a few weeks since – the Governor was president, and upon the whole it was very well attended; my Father gave a short address which was so well received that the Lieut Governor expressed a wish that it might be published. I think I mentioned in my last

⁴⁰ Captain John Brabyn, of the New South Wales Royal Veteran Company. He returned to Sydney on 22nd November, 1817, in the ship *Larkins*.

⁴¹ A marginal note to Letter No. 26 reads: "I have sent a box one mat (?) to Mr Charles Stokes for the Society, and a little trifle from New Zealand."

⁴² In the margin: "Rev. Thos. Hassall."

that a school was established at Parramatta for the native children. There are now 17 children so that in the end I hope it will have the desired effect – Mr. & Mrs. Ellis⁴³ & Mr. & Mrs. Orsmond have left us for Otaheite & I hope are now near the place of their destination. Mr. & Mrs. Barff remain a short time longer at Parramatta, on account of Mrs. B, was confined at the time the ship sailed. The Missionaries at New Zealand were all well when the Active left them. I need say nothing of the, as it will be only to repeat what is written in the “Missionary Register,” extracted from my Father’s letters – That you may have some idea of Parramatta I send you a view of it, which is, I believe, very much like it, tho wretchedly pained; our house is not in it – but when I have another favourable opportunity I will send you that and the Church.

My Mother requests me to say how much she should be grateful if you would favour her with a few lines; that tho’ you write to my Father, which is nearly the same thing, yet still she wishes to hear from you herself; she regrets extremely that she is deprived of the pleasure of writing to you, but both her & us, ought to be very thankful that she enjoys her health so well, & that her memory is not in the least impaired – My Father is also very well, still as busy as ever. Should you see Mr. Thos Hassall, he will be much better able to give you every information both respecting us and the Country than I can write. Elizabeth, Charles, Mary, Jane & Martha are all well; My Mother says I must tell you all their names as she finds you did not know them till you saw them in my Father’s letter to Duaterra, Mary will not be satisfied till she writes to Miss Hughes; she says she knows it was Mrs. Stokes that sent out the dolls, ribbands, etc but she thinks that Miss H much have sent some of the pincushions, & therefore she will write to thank her for them. My Father & Mother beg their kindest regards to Mr. & Mrs. Hughes, & yourself, and believe me to be

My dear Madam,

Yours very affectionately,

A. Marsden.⁴⁴

No. 28.

Parramatta
March 27th 1817.

My very dear Madam

This will be delivered to you by a pious young man who is coming to England with the intention of entering into Holy orders as soon as he can obtain the requisite literary qualifications. I hope he will stand in my place and preserve the holy seed in this distant land. I consider him a little like young Timothy and I hope he will be an honor and a blessing to the Church of Christ.

Your long looked for box arrived by the Lieut Governor to the no small joy of all my girls. The day was too short for them to examine your presents and to point out all the beauties of the Dolls & dresses. I shall pay particular attention to your request respecting the Minerals and have sent to the Derwent to see what can be found there.

As I advance in years I am involved in greater difficulties, it will be no small portion of the happiness of the Saints to be where the wicked cease from troubling. I have had harder to contend than ever lately and never passed thro’ so much anxiety in a given time at any former period of my life. I must prevail in the end though the struggle is very painful.

Should you see my friend Mr. Good he will explain more fully my situation. Unconverted men in power roar like lions at the sound of the Gospel. They shew their

⁴³ The Rev. William Ellis, with a printing press, reached Sydney in February, 1817.

⁴⁴ Received Feb. 23d 1818.

enmity in every possible way. Every King of Babylon has his Golden Image and whosoever will not fall down & worship his god must be cast into the burning fiery furnace. I now move slowly like a loaded wagon pressed beneath the sheaves of wheat. Fightings without and fears within attend me. They that live godly in Christ Jesus must suffer persecutions – This will hold good in all countries and particularly in this. Some Ministers are bold in preaching the Gospel in the pulpit but out of it they are very careful what they say or do lest they should give offence to the Ungodly – I see such men but I cannot approve of their plans.

I have lately in some heavy storms stood alone and the storm is not over yet. From a wicked world I expect no favor, no peace. The Mission to New Zealand has also added much to my anxiety. All things have gone on there as well as I could have expected as far as concerns the natives but the pecuniary concerns have been distressing to me. They have far exceeded what I had reason to expect from various causes. I wish I was free from these or at least that my Colleagues would enter heartily into the work to assist me. I find it too heavy a responsibility for me.

I am in hopes now that the settlement is formed that things will go on more to my satisfaction and that the expenses will be greatly reduced. I beg my kind regards to all your family and to Mrs. Hughes and Mr. Hughes in which Mrs. M. joins. If I can get anything to send by Mr. Hassall I will.

I remain

Dear Madam

Yours respectfully

Samuel Marsden.

P.S. – My little girls talk much about Mrs. Stokes. When they heard of the Box every ship excited their anxious wishes to see what was in it – At length it came to their joy.⁴⁵

No. 29.

Parramatta
Decr. 16th 1817

My dear Madam

I had the great pleasure to receive your letter by the Duke of Wellington with the gloves which you were so kind as to send and the little blocks for the children which created great joy in their little hearts. I wish you could have seen them dancing about the ribbons the night I brought them home. Mrs. M. and myself are thankful to you for your kind remembrances and wish it was in our power to make you any return. Should I visit New Zealand again I will see if I can meet with any minerals &c and send them to your sons. I have sent a few by the bearer and a few seeds for your friends gardens. Miss Hall⁴⁶ will I have no doubt deliver them safe. The seeds are quite fresh. I am sorry I have not more for your son but I will not forget him. I have sent a little blue paint from New Zealand in a wafer box whether it is or ever will be of any value I know not. Perhaps your son can inform me when you write again. There are also a few small stones from Cape Barren, but I know not that they are good for anything. I will procure more Iron stone from Fort Dalrymple as soon as I can and send it.

I am happy to say the Missions go on well in the Islands. There nations have changed their gods and have cast them into the fire – 2000 Natives in the South Sea Islands can now read and have embraced Christianity as their national religion. God

⁴⁵ This letter is endorsed: "Received by Mr Hassall Feb'y 23d 1818, M. Stokes."

⁴⁶ Probably the daughter of William Hall, sent out in 1809 by the Church Missionary Society for service in New Zealand.

hath done great things for them perhaps his power has not been more visibly displayed since the Apostles time than amongst these Natives. At New Zealand also the prospect bids fair. A good School is established there and all the Missionaries are well and kindly treated by the Natives. I will lay out your five pounds for them when the "Active" returns and am much obliged to you for your kind consideration. It will be many years to come before every New Zealander is worth an Ax. They are all wants, they are in a state of Nature and therefore must put a high value upon a needle or a nail. I wish to introduce among them Agriculture. This will immediately apply to their real wants & will be the first thing that will raise them into a civilized nation. I have five now living with me instructing them in Agriculture. I cannot entertain doubt but that the time is now come for these people to be blessed with the Gospel of Peace and that the way is now opened to them. There is great opposition to the work in this Colony but I trust that God in his own good time will remove the enemy and give a little peace. I have been tried more this last year than at any former period of my life but blessed by God I still stand my ground against all the powers that be a hope I shall continue to stand. I often wish to return to the bosom of my Country and frequently resolve to do this but then I am immediately checked with the thought What will the New Zealanders do. What will the Missionaries in all the Islands do if there is none to care for them & administer to their wants and to console them under difficulties. Will England make me happy and relieve my anxiety about the Natives of the South Sea Islands. These considerations make me again resolve to meet all difficulties and to contend with them to the last. I have always overcome in time though the contest has sometimes been long and severe. He that hath helped me can & will help at all times if we only depend upon his power and goodness. No doubt you will learn somewhat of our late struggles though all has turned out well for the cause of religion in the end.

I am happy to say Mrs. M. and all my family continue well. My daughters are all much obliged to you for your kindness to them and if you will lay out the £5 in bonnets (I mean straw bonnets) which you have instructed me to lay out for you for the Natives of New Zealand I will execute your commands here. I have sent you also by Miss Hall a small New Zealand funnel which will shew you what neat carvers they are and with little or no tools. I beg to refer you to Miss Hall for further accounts. Mrs. M and my daughters desire their kind love to you and your family. The man Massiter⁴⁷ whom Mr. Hughes recommended to me put it out of my power to do anything for him. I got him into a good situation or two but he was so addicted to drunkenness and made such a game of everything sacred and religious I was obliged to leave him to himself and I fear he will do something or other that will involve him in difficulties here.

Mr. Vale will have got home before this and perhaps you may have seen him. I do not think he will come out any more here as Mrs. Vale did not like the Country. The rest of my Colleagues are all well.

Remember us kindly to Mr. & Mrs. Hughes and to all your family. We shall always rejoice to hear from you.

I remain

Dear Madam

Yours respectfully

Samuel Marsden.⁴⁸

No. 30.

⁴⁷ This word appears to read "Massiter."

⁴⁸ Endorsed: "Rec'd June 29th 1818 by Miss Hall."

Parramatta
June 14th 1819.

My dear Madam

I have just received your letter dated 16th Novr. 1818 and as a ship sails next week for England I embrace the opportunity to drop you a line. I think you would receive letters from me before the end of November last as Mr. Cartwright had arrived in the Downs about the time you wrote. I have just received letters along with yours on the same day from Otaheite & New Zealand.

The Missionaries write from Otaheite that Pomare has built a chapel or Church which will contain three times the number of persons that St Paul's will hold. It is 760 feet long – The great meeting was to take place there in May when all the Chiefs of the different Islands were to assemble for the purposes of devotion. I apprehend nothing like this has occurred since the Apostles days. I hope they would have a real Pentecost and that the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon all above measure, so that the Missionaries may ask can any man forbid water so that these shall not be baptized who have received the Holy Ghost as well as we.

I am astonished above measure at the success of the Mission. Never perhaps were there more weak and unlikely instruments than have been employed in this work. Previous to my return to England the Missionaries had relinquished the work twice. Two only remained. The last time, when I arrived in New South Wales I found the Missionaries again in the Colony. They told me they would not return again – Their labors were all in vain. I wanted to know why they had left their stations with a resolution never to return again. They stated their reasons which I have no doubt satisfied them that the South Sea Islands were not the field in which they were destined by the head of the Church to labor. I had very different views on the subject though it did not appear at that time proper for me to state my sentiments – Their minds were too weak their feelings of disappointment too keen and without hope. Time relieved their minds a little. The Mission became a subject of frequent conversation, and at last I wrote to them calling upon them to the work once more expressing my humble confidence they would succeed in the end.

When this consent was again obtained I took up two Colonial vessels in which they embarked and were landed again in Satan's Dark dominions. They surrounded his City, blew their Rams Horns and the walls of the Otaheitian Jericho fell down – The Heathen Altars no more streamed with human blood, the new born infant no more expired beneath the murderers grasp – The habitations of cruelty were illuminated by the Morning Star which indicated the speedy rising of the Sun of Righteousness with healing on his wings. The Lord is now risen indeed. The name of Jesus is precious to many a soul and the incorruptable seed is sown which will live and abide for ever.

I shall send a few lines to Mr. Burder⁴⁹ with a private letter or two addressed to me from the Missionaries as they have sent no public letters. I am sure the private letters will give the Society the most heartfelt satisfaction. I am happy to say all is well at New Zealand. I cannot doubt but that the time is come for these cannibals who were a terror to the civilized world to become the children of our God. N.S. Wales would not have detained me had it not been the post which the Great Captain of Salvation assigned me for the good of the Heathen. I would not have lived under the rod of oppression for any human authority unless I had been chained hand and foot. The question which I often have put to myself when smarting under the scourge of Power & Injustice is am I at my post? Do I believe God sent me here. The answer of my mind has always been Yes. I will then defend my post. I will not quit till I am relieved. I have little communication with the great men of this World and never enter Government House but twice in the Year as a matter of form on public days. The following little

⁴⁹ The Rev. George Burder, of the London Missionary Society.

circumstance will show you the spirit of the times. News of the Queens death arrived last week. I looked for the general order for mourning on the occasion but instead of mourning the feat of Pentecost has been consecrated to horse racing all this week cock fighting &c by the Sanction of the Government. The annual feast has been thus observed. I have little hope of doing much good in this colony. God is making here and there young fools wise unto salvation. A young man born in the colony whose parents were convicts and still wicked offered his services to me this night to assist me in teaching and instructing the New Zealanders who were living with me from a real love to the Gospel and an experimental knowledge of the truth. God is from these very stones, from the sweepings of the Jails Hulks and brothels raising up Children unto Abraham. I must conclude but first let me tell you I intend sending my only son Charles to England the next ship. His passage is taken and I hope dear Madam you will live to see him arrive safe. Mrs. M. and my daughters are well. The night before the news of the Bonnets arrived my daughter Elizabeth dreamed Mrs. Stokes had sent some bonnets. I do not believe much in dreams only state the fact. Mrs. M. & I smiled at her dream however, it so happened that the event corresponded with the dream. Mr. Hill has not yet arrived at Sydney. The Ship Hibernia is at the Derwent and the letters were forwarded by another vessel. We expect him hourly. I am happy to say Mrs. M. is wonderfully well considering her affliction. You mention the trial and that the damages were small.⁵⁰ I did not seek for damages and that the Judge and the Court were sensible of. All I wanted was to set my character right with the public and to prove the conduct of those in authority towards the cause in which I was engaged and towards me individually. I received none of the money nor ever intended. I did not turn and attack the enemy till I could flee no longer from him, and then I was moved to vindicate my cause by an appeal unto Caesar and I was saved out of the mouth of the lion. How long the warfare will continue I know not or when a change will come. I view God governing the world, he puts down one and raises up another according to his Sovereign will. I esteem the excellent ones of the Earth and I wish to be esteemed by them as I hope to live with them ere long, when the wicked cease from troubling, but I value little the friendship of those who are enemies to the Cross of Christ. I have had my share of their hatred and yet I have no reason to believe that it has been in their power to do me any real injury. I did not intend when I sat down to write half as much but I feel as if I was in Gutter lane again and in the eye of the mind I see you your daughter your sons & grandchildren. Is that little red-faced girl with her ruddy cheeks grown any. I dare say I should not know her

I must drop my pen. We regret to hear Mr. Johnson is so poorly. I purpose to write to him by Charles. Give my most affectionate regards to Mrs. Amey, Mrs. Searle Revd. & Mrs. Wilkinson Mr. & Mrs. Hughes and all your family whom I shall ever esteem and accept the same from

Dear Madam

Your very much obliged

And affectionate Friend

Samuel Marsden.⁵¹

No. 31.

⁵⁰ For details of the two trials of J. T. Campbell for a criminal libel against the Rev. Samuel Marsden, see *Commonwealth Historical Records*, Vol. IX., p. 836, and the long note, p. 891 *et seq.* In a civil action, Marsden was awarded £200 damages.

⁵¹ Endorsed: "Rec'd Novr. 4th 1819."

Parramatta
July 14th 1819.

My dear Madam

We received all your letters by the Surrey and Hibernia but the Box you mention has not yet come to hand and is not on board these ships. It may come by some other conveyance. I will pay particular attention to your son Charles's request and will follow his directions in sending them home when obtained. I received his letters and am now preparing to embark for New Zealand with the Clergyman &c &c. should I meet with anything in my voyage that I think will be acceptable to Mr. C. Stokes I will bring it with me and then answer his letter. By this ship I have sent home my son Charles for his education and wish to place him in some Seminary with Mr. Hassall in Wales as he will be a companion for him and a guardian till he gains more knowledge of the world. I have directed him to wait upon you when he arrives in London and have requested my friends Mr. Goode to provide for him on my account while he remains in Town. I need not say how Mrs. M. feels on parting with him to England and me to New Zealand at the same time. The promise is as they say thy strength shall be. They are both needful though not joyous at the present time. We must commit all unto his hands who orders all things well. I bless God that the enemy hath not triumphed over me. I am alive to this day & as firm at my post through Mercy as ever. Hard has been the struggle and painful the Contest but the issue will be for the good of the Church of Christ. Fightings without and fears within have literally attended me. I have lived like a spark in the Ocean. Wave after wave have rolled over me but not swallowed me up. I shall be very glad when a changed Government is made. Things may be better. They will not be better under the present system nor am I to expect any cordial reconciliation to take place between me and the existing authority. Had I been vanquished the enemy would have been more inclined to a reconciliation. As that is not the case the enemy will only lie like hot embers under a heap of ashes ready to be blown up into a flame by the first gust of temptation. For this reason I must not sleep as do others but watch and be sober and pray for divine wisdom that I may walk wisely towards them that are without and with well-doing put to silence the ignorant & foolish man.

I was very much rejoiced to receive Tooi & Teterree both well and thank you for your kind attentions to them. Tooi tells me you have given him two gowns for his wife. I am glad they behaved well and have no doubt but that their country will become a great nation in a little time. They speak to you with much affection. The Revd. Messrs. Hill & Cross have arrived. Mr. Hill answers my wishes as far as I can judge and I think he will be a great blessing to this Colony. My opinion of Mr. Cross I shall suspend for the present and shall rejoice if he honors his holy profession. I have not had much opportunity yet to judge. If the Governor would have allowed me I should have seen you with Mr. Cartwright but he would not great me leave. I have now obtained permission to return from England but I cannot embrace the opportunity at present.

Mrs. M. and my family are all pretty well and beg to be affectionately remembered to you and yours and to Mr. Hughes and his family. You will excuse this hasty scrawl as I am much pressed for time. I refer you to Charles for particulars.

I remain

Dear Madam

Yours affectionately

Saml. Marsden.⁵²

No. 32.

⁵² "Rec'd Decr 4th 1819. Per Master Chas. Marsden."

Sydney New South Wales
August 20th 1820.

My dear & esteemed Mrs. Stokes

My Mother received your affectionate letter dated April 3rd 1820 last week, & is happy to find that notwithstanding you complain of the indolence attending old age you are enabled to write to & think of her and hers: for my part I find it very difficult to fancy you what you represent yourself as, "very old & infirm." I can only remember you as the kind indulgent Mrs. Stokes, endeavouring to satisfy my childish curiosity by accompanying me into various toy shops, on my first arrival in England; & presenting me with the largest doll I had ever seen! What a treasure I thought I was possessed of. Twenty years have rolled away since those events happened & made them "the tale of other time." I am very happy to say we have received the box of bonnets etc safe: it was packed in a case of books directed to the Missionaries in New Zealand, which place it would have gone to, had not the Rev. Mr. Hill received intelligence that he had some letters in the case, & wished it to be opened, when our box was discovered. The parcel which you mention to have sent, I fear we shall never receive, for the young man whose care it was intrusted to forwarded it in his box by the Saracen, which ship sailed from Sydney before his arrival. Mr. Hill delivered the letter & boxes which you sent by him, for which we return you many thanks. I think you would be surprised to see my dear brother in England, it was a great trial to my Mother to part with him, but it was obliged to be so, or he never would have received an education to have enabled him to support the character of a gentleman. We conceived ourselves highly favoured in being permitted to receive accounts of him within 10 months after his departure. My Mother is surprised to find he has had measles, as she thought he had that disorder when he was with her on board the Buffalo. I am sure you will feel much sorrow on Mr. Thos Hassall's account, to hear of the death of his Father, he died after a very short illness, but that was of no moment with him, for I comprehended he was many years prepared for his great change, whenever it should please his Master to call him. A Bible society has been established lately at Parramatta & a female committee is also formed to act in conjunction with it. I am proud to say the ladies prosper the best. We collect about £5 monthly. The people evince a greater readiness to pay free subscriptions; they do not appear anxious to possess a Bible; our greatest expectations are from the rising generation. We have, I am happy to say, a good Sunday School, about 110 children attend constantly. The little black children make rapid improvement. The girls can read fluently & write & sew very neatly. You have of course heard before that though my Father went out in the Dromedary to New Zealand, he is not returned yet, although he has been absent six months: we are not daily expecting him. Mr. Cartwright is anxiously awaiting the arrival of Mrs. C from England. Mr. Youl was very unwell the last time we heard from him; his health has been very indifferent for many months past, he is extremely subject to an inflammation on the lungs. We are all just recovering from a severe cold which is very prevalent throughout the Colony. My Mother was exceedingly ill for some days, & also Elizabeth; they unite with me in kindest regards to Mr. & Mrs. Hughes & affectionate love to yourself & believe me,

Your very affectionate

Anne Marsden.⁵³

No. 33.

Parramatta
Feby 12th 1824.

⁵³ Received Feb. 5th 1821.

Dear Madam

It is now a long time since I wrote to you though I often think of your kindness to me and mine and am grateful for your past attentions. As the bearer of this Mr. Woodhouse who resides in London will have an opportunity to see you after his return I have determined to give you a line by him, and shall refer you to Mr. Woodhouse for any information you may wish as he can tell you what we are doing. I have still to contend with unreasonable and wicked men and believe I shall have to the end of life. However, much good has been done in the Colony in various ways for the furtherance of Religion. On the 11th Inst I consecrated a very fine Church in Sydney in which I trust the everlasting Gospel will be preached to the end of time.⁵⁴ I have now consecrated five Churches in this part of the world and shall soon have the pleasure God willing of setting apart another of his immediate worship. God has overruled the wickedness of man for the advancement of his glory.

I have lately returned from New Zealand and brought with me a few natives. I have no doubt but we shall establish Christianity among that barbarous race of men. They are making advances in Civilization and improving very fast.

I this day marked out a building which I purpose to erect at Parramatta for a Seminary for the natives of New Zealand and have the labourers at work. It is my intention to have the Missionaries children brought over for their education to N.S. Wales and some of the Children of the Chiefs with them which may be of infinite advantage to them both. I am sorry to say some of the Missionaries have not behaved well. This has given me much trouble as I have been obliged to dismiss some from the Mission entirely. These things are very grievous. Moses when he selected 12 princes heads of the tribes of Israel to examine the land of Canaan only two were found faithful and even these all the congregation had stone them with stones. We must not expect to meet with more success than Moses in our undertakings. The last year was a year of toil & danger and much vexation. I spent near three months in different parts of Van Dieman's land and travelled from Sea to Sea. On my return I sailed for New Zealand and was there ship wrecked and the ship was lost. We had many dangers as I sailed in four different vessels during the year. I had my troubles on shore as well as on the water and was compelled to appeal unto Caesar for redress. Who can tell what he may meet with in his pilgrimage through life. Infinite wisdom cannot err. All we want is to commit our way to him and he will direct our paths. Should you be in London and see Mr. Justice Field⁵⁵ or his lady you may know all our concerns from them. Mr. Justice Field was one of our Judges and sailed from Europe a few days ago. We were very intimate and found him at all times very friendly. I esteemed him and Mrs. Field very much and regret their departure. Mr. and Mrs. Hassall are very well. Mr. Hassall retains his spirituality his pious feelings and promises to be an useful member of the Gospel of Christ. He has got no appointment yet. I believe it is partly owing to the very little esteem some of the ruling powers have for me that he is not provided for. Many settlements are totally without Clergy. At one settlement there are nearly 1500 Convicts and no Minister. I have written to the Bishop of London on this subject and hope some remedy will be provided. If Government will not employ Mr. Hassall I must do it myself. In short I have ever since he came to the Colony. The Lord will provide. If I could make up my mind to court the friendship of the world all would be well. But this will not do for a Christian who hopes to enter a better world than this in due time. You, my dear Madam must now be near your prize. Your race must be nearly run and your reward in full view. You have had a long experience of the goodness of the Lord and must now be ready to say with Jacob I have waited for thy salvation O Lord. I am happy to say Mrs. M. is pretty well and all my family. She often speaks of you with

⁵⁴ St. James's Church, Sydney, consecrated 11th February, 1824.

⁵⁵ Barron Field, first Australian Judge, and author of *First Fruits of Australian Poetry*.

much affection and now begs me to give her kindest love to you Mr. & Mrs. Hughes and all your sons. How must you rejoice to see your Children walking in the fear of God. I have not heard from the Revd. R. Johnson for a long time. He must be near his end now.⁵⁶ I purpose to write a line to him this evening which I hope will find him in the land of the living. Referring you to Mr. Justice Field should you have an opportunity of seeing him and his lady

I remain

With much esteem

Yours affcly

Samuel Marsden.⁵⁷

Australian Historical Monographs

This monograph was originally published privately by Dr. George Mackaness in a limited edition of 150 copies.

This is VOLUME XII in the new series of AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL MONOGRAPHS. It was Volume IV in the original series.

Dr. George Mackaness

Dr. George Mackaness, O.B.E., M.A., Litt.D. (Melb.), D.Litt. (Syd.), Hon. D.Sc. (Syd.), F.R.A.H.S., was born in Sydney in 1882, and was a distinguished author and educationalist. He was in charge of the Department of English at Sydney Teachers' College from 1924 to 1946, was the N.S.W. Representative on the Commonwealth Literary Fund from 1938, and was President of the Royal Australian Historical Society (1948-49). He died in 1968.

Dr Mackaness wrote over 70 books and journal articles, including such outstanding historical works as "The Life of Vice-Admiral William Bligh" (1931), and "Admiral Arthur Phillip, R.N.: Founder and First Governor of New South Wales" (1937). He edited anthologies such as "Poets of Australia" (1946), "Australian Short Stories" (1928), and poetic works of Byron and Wordsworth.

Between 1935 and 1962, Dr. Mackaness edited and privately produced in limited editions, the series of Australian Historical Monographs, of which this volume is part.

These monographs, totalling 46, cover an enormous range of Australian historical subjects and represent a considerable amount of original research on the part of Dr Mackaness since most of the material in them had not previously been published. Since the monographs were produced only in very limited editions (some as few as 30 copies), their circulation has been very restricted, though their reputation amongst historians and scholars stands very high.

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⁵⁶ The Rev. Richard Johnson died 13th March, 1827, aged 74 years.

⁵⁷ "Rec'd Aug'st 6th 1824."