

1838

(Elder, 1932)

The letters and journals of
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MARSDEN IN COOK STRAIT

us. Mr. Marsden spoke to the natives through an interpreter, and he then gave the history of his first affection for their race. He told them that twenty years elapsed after his seeing those two natives before he saw another New Zealander, or did anything for them: he then went to England and brought out Mr. King, etc.* There were 300 natives to listen to his discourse."†

Age and infirmity had neither dulled Marsden's enthusiasm for travel nor diminished his desire to find fresh fields of enterprise for the missionary cause. On May 30th, 1837, he reached Kerikeri in company with Mr. Busby, the officers of the *Rattlesnake* (Captain Hobson‡), and the Rev. A. N. Brown. From thence he sailed in the *Rattlesnake*, accompanied by Brown, visiting the mission stations at the Thames, and travelling as far to the south as Cook Strait. Heavy weather, however, prevented Marsden from landing in the southern part of the island although, as he subsequently wrote, the information given him that 1,500 natives lived near Cook Strait and that no missionary had yet visited them made him strongly wish to do so.§ Brown describes this part of Marsden's journey as follows:—

Zealand in 1813 and visited Bluff, reported that the natives "had a field of considerably more than 100 acres of potatoes which presented one well-cultivated bed, filled with rising crops of various ages, some of which were ready for digging while others had been but newly planted."—*The Sydney Gazette*, September 4th, 1813, quoted in McNab, *Murihiku* (Invercargill, 1907), pp. 146-7.

* *Vide ante*, p. 61.

† *The Church Missionary Register*, 1838, pp. 220-221.

‡ From Parramatta on August 3rd, 1837, Marsden wrote:—"Captain Hobson came to New Zealand when I was there on a visit to the missionaries. Captain Hobson is a serious man and behaved to me with the greatest kindness."—*Vide Appendix viii*.

§ Captain Hobson visited New Zealand in 1837 in accordance with instructions from Sir R. Bourke, Governor of New South Wales, who asked him to report on the New Zealand situation and give suggestions for the securing of the best interests of Maoris and Europeans there. Captain Hobson in his report, dated August 8th, 1837, suggested that some form of British jurisdiction be established.—*Parliamentary Papers, Correspondence with the Secretary of State Relative to New Zealand* (London, 1840), pp. 9-11.

¶ Mission stations at Cook Strait were established almost immediately after Marsden's journey of 1837. "The honours of the coming of the Church to Cook Strait were fairly divided between Wesleyan and Anglican," writes McNab. "The first native teacher was Ripahau, an Anglican (at Waikanae); the first visiting missionary was Mr. White, a Wesleyan (Queen Charlotte Sound and Cloudy Bay, 1836); the first mission stations established were the Wesleyan ones, by Bumby and Hobbs (Port Nicholson and Mana, about June, 1839); the first European preacher stationed was Mr. O. Hasfield, an Anglican (located at Waikanae and Otaki by the Rev. Henry Williams in 1839, in response to the request of Tamihana Te Rauaparaha); finally, the first service preached to the Company's immigrants was by Mr. Buller, a Wesleyan (at Port Nicholson in January, 1840).—Robert McNab, *The Old Whaling Days* (Christchurch, 1913), pp. 333, 334.

The Rev. John Hewgill Bumby, the Methodist missionary who went with Mr. Hobbs in August, 1839, to the Cook Strait district for the purpose of fixing a spot for a permanent mission settlement there, found the natives of Port Nicholson "of milder aspect, and gentler carriage, than the natives of the north of the island." "Thinking the place suitable for a new station," he continues, "and presuming that the Committee would sanction such a step, we tapped a piece of land of the proprietors, two respectable chiefs, for some blankets and fish-hooks. The tapu secures to us the privilege of purchase, if we should fix upon the place for a missionary settlement. Having spent a week amongst these interesting barbarians, and furnished

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