

ary 1st, 1859, and with it a package of excellent books from your benevolent Society. For the books furnished by the Society, I beg leave to offer my grateful, my unqualified thanks. The Catechisms are the helps I have long needed; that is to say, a sufficient quantity of them to form classes; and now that I have so much more time to attend to this particular branch of school instruction, I think you may well expect me to say, 'I am grateful.' The Bishop\* remained with us on this occasion three days, and held a confirmation of three persons, there being no more of sufficient age. His Lordship then made sail for the isles of darkness in this vicinity, and we are expecting his return in a week or two on his way to Auckland. He is as kind as ever, and we are the recipients of many, very many favours at his hands. There is no one here but loves his Lordship truly.

"Our people succeeded in taking a hundred and twenty barrels of oil last year, one hundred of which was sent to Sydney, and realized two hundred and forty pounds. This money has just been remitted to us, but will not more than cover the expenses of the fitting out of last season, and the cost of new boats, lines, casks, &c., for an establishment on a larger scale this year. We have now four boats well equipped; they require twenty-four men to work them. The whaling season is now almost over, but not more than thirty barrels of oil have yet been secured, owing to the scarcity and shyness of the whales; but this is nothing strange in the whaling lottery: another year may be altogether as plentiful. Two weeks since they killed three large cow whales, but they sank immediately (a common case); one was afterwards recovered, but the sharks had so preyed upon it, that not more than fifteen barrels of oil were obtained. In the *mêlée* at that time we had one boat smashed, but the boat's crew would not run from the whale. With a hole in the forepart of the boat, big enough for a man to go through, they all removed to the afterpart, and in spite of the kicking and fighting of the whale, held on till the other boats came to their assistance, which was scarcely done when the broken boat, being full of water, rolled over, bottom up. In that boat I had three sons and two sons-in-law. On their return I remonstrated with them for their rashness, but they seemed to think there was no great danger.

"The season has been very favourable for our crops, and we have plenty of Indian corn and sweet potatoes, with fish, milk, and butter. Irish potatoes will not thrive; would they do so whale ships would supply us with almost every thing we need. Flour we must also import. There has been very little sickness among the community; the most are becoming contented, and consequently comfortable. Mr. Rossiter is, I think, just such a man as was needed—industrious in school and out, and very unassuming.

"Her Majesty's ship 'Niger' was here a short time since, bringing a large quantity of articles, purchased by Sir William Denison, for opening a store under the direction of Mr. Rossiter. The only expensive thing is flour, which at the present time is dear at Sydney. Sir William Denison has taken the control of the sheep into his own hands. The wool is to be sent to Sydney, and the proceeds therefrom will be placed in bank for the benefit of the community, but can only be drawn with the consent of the Governor, whose signature must be affixed to the drafts.

"As respects other matters we are going on very well. There have been fifty births since our arrival; and it would appear that baptisms and churchings will be of weekly occurrence ere long. But Norfolk Island contains 8607 acres, which will give a fifty-acre lot to 172 families (there are now forty); so that there is plenty of room for increase; though I am not at all anxious there should be an influx of strangers,

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\* Dr. Selwyn, Bishop of New Zealand.