

THE CHURCH IN NEW ZEALAND.

LETTERS FROM THE BISHOP OF NEW ZEALAND TO THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS.

I. Auckland, July 29, 1842.

My Dear Sir,—You will have already heard from other quarters of my arrival in New Zealand; but I have hitherto delayed writing any official letter; that I might have time to verify my first impressions by more extended observation.

I landed first at Auckland, on Monday, May 30, from the brig Bristolian, in which I had proceeded from Sydney, in consequence of an accident to the Tomatin at Sydney, which caused a delay of several weeks before that ship could be repaired.

The Governor, on my application, has vested in me as trustee, two pieces of ground of eight acres each, for the burial of the dead, according to the usage of the Church of England.

The Church now in progress is called the Church of St. Paul; on the central one of the three ridges on which the town will stand.

I have obtained permission to select and purchase sites for parsonage houses, contiguous to the Churches and burial grounds, which I shall endeavor to let upon building leases, reserving one central piece of ground sufficient for the residence of all the clergy of the town.

Any money that I may be able to spare from Auckland itself, will be required for the establishment of the Church in some of the suburban settlements, where villages are beginning to be formed.

I am now (July 29, 1842) off the harbour of Auckland, in the government brig Victoria, bound to Wellington and Nelson.

The power which has been accorded to me of creating Archdeacons is most necessary; for the communication between the different parts of this country is very uncertain.

settlement, and every clergyman and catechist in the country, before the end of the year.

I have consented, in compliance with the urgent request of the Governor, and most of the principal inhabitants of Auckland, including many members of the Church Mission, to undertake the formation of a School.

With my grateful remembrances of all my friends in the committee, and with earnest prayer for the success of your endeavors,

I am, yours most faithfully, G. A. NEW ZEALAND.

At Sea, off Kapiti, Nov. 3, 1842.

My dear Sir,—I have now completed my first visit to the different English settlements in New Zealand: Kororarika, Auckland, Wellington, Nelson, and New Plymouth.

From the nature of the country of New Zealand, the population is likely to be divided into a number of villages; a distribution likely to be favourable to morality, but adding to the difficulty of providing the people with adequate pastoral superintendence.

In all the settlements where there is a bank, I have opened an account, styled Archdeaconry of Auckland, Church Fund, Wellington, Nelson.

I require every town Clergyman to learn the native language and be ready to minister to the spiritual wants of the Aborigines; and I find it will be necessary also, to establish the converse rule, that every Missionary to the natives, shall also be ready to minister to the English settlers; for in this country English and natives will live side by side, unless some rupture (which God avert) should take place between the two races.

The probable increase in the number of small secondary settlements in this country, will make the necessity apparent of my having the means of educating my own Clergy, at least the greater number of them.

On the 10th of October I left Wellington, on foot, accompanied by several natives, who carried our tents, beds, food, clothes and books, and set out on a journey to New Plymouth, one of the principal settlements of the Company, which is situated to the North of Cape Egmont, the Western extremity of New Zealand, and near the Sugar Loaf Islands.

The Society has to add, with deep regret, that the Bishop has been deprived of the assistance of his excellent Chaplain, of whom, in all his letters he had spoken with so much affection and esteem.

have grown up to prevent the establishment of a sound and efficient Church system. May God give us peculiar advantages which are placed within our reach.

I beg to be most kindly remembered to all my friends in the Society; and beg to assure them and you that I remain Ever your grateful and affectionate friend, G. A. NEW ZEALAND.

SOME FURTHER INFORMATION

With regard to the proceedings and prospects of the Bishop, may be obtained from the following extracts from his private letters to friends in England.

My friend, Mr. Chief Justice Martin, and myself, feel that in the line of our duties, a door of great and effectual usefulness is opened to us.

I speak of the natives first, because they are the great bulk of the population; and, I think, the hinge upon which the prosperity of the colony will turn.

But I have not yet concluded the sources of comfort which may be drawn from the effectual working of God's grace in this country; the care of the Church Mission by itself is an employment to which I should have been thankful to devote my whole life.

On the 29th of July I sailed from Auckland in the government brig Victoria, for Nelson, which is one of the largest and most flourishing settlements in New Zealand, situated at the very bottom of Blind or Tasman's Bay, on the northern shore of the middle Island.

The next day I pitched the Church tent, a most complete cathedral, with pulpit, reading desk, communion table, rails, kneeling boards, &c.

On Sunday, Sept. 4, I collected at the Offertory £33 for Church purposes, and administered the communion to seventeen communicants.

A lovely site for a Church and cemetery has been reserved here: a small mound, rising to the height of 100 feet, in the centre of the little plain on which the chief part of the town stands, and with a flat summit, sufficient for the base of a fine building.

A very strong feeling exists among all the respectable settlers at Nelson, in favour of the natives, only requiring to be guided in a right direction.

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I can assure you that the comparison brought with it no feeling of discontent; on the contrary, I spent the greater part of the day, after the usual services and readings with my natives, in thinking, with gratitude, on the many mercies and blessings which have been granted to me in the past year.

in looking back upon the events of the year, upon my happy parting from all my friends, my visit to the Bishop of Australia, my voyages, (eight in number), my favourable reception in every town in my diocese, my growing friendship with the natives, who hear of me in every part of the country, and receive me with characteristic cordiality, all form an inexhaustible subject for thoughts of joy and thanksgiving, which sometimes fill the heart to overflowing.

The Bishop is at present residing at the Waimea, a village about sixteen miles from Auckland, described by us for the most settled place in New Zealand.

Next door to our own house, which is the College, is the Collegiate School, which has not yet been opened, but will probably be set on foot after Easter.

One of the chief advantages of the Waimea is, that we have a spacious Church close to the house. It is built entirely of wood, painted white, and gives a very English look to the village.

Here I held my first confirmation, at which three hundred and seventy-five natives were confirmed. A more orderly, and I hope impressive, ceremony could not have been conducted in any Church in England; the natives coming up in parties to the communion table, and audibly repeating the answer—E wakaotia eua a ehu, "I do confess."

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