

Thomas Haweis – letters received by Thomas Haweis and others, 1791-1830
MLMSS 633

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Letter from George Bennet to Mrs. Haweis, 4 Oct. 1830

[in blue pencil : Bennet had gone out to survey the societies work in the South Seas 1830]

Mission House Austin Friars
Monday Oct. 4 1830.

My dear Madam

When at Brighton and the neighbourhood for several weeks during last month, and learning that you were habitually or frequently at Brighton, I felt extremely solicitous to have the honour and pleasure of an interview with the esteemed relict of one whose memory is truly & deservedly held so dear by all who rightly estimate the surprising and delightful work which God has been pleased to effect in the South & North Pacific Oceans through the instrumentality

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of Missionaries.

While the pious zealous and self denying Missionaries whose labours God was pleased ultimately to crown with signal success, - are entitled to the love, gratitude and Xtian admiration of the Friends of our God & Saviour. And whose names & labours will be had in everlasting remembrance.

So also are, the admirable zeal, pious liberality, and signal firmness & perseverance in the great work, under most trying & discouraging circumstances, of your late revered Husband the Revd. Dr. Haweis, to be held in perpetual recollection and his memory in honor.

And Dr. Madame his name is honored in the Islands amongst

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both Native Chiefs and Missionaries. Though we found with some surprise that the name of Haweis had not been given to any particular place. When we enquired how this had happened; They reminded that the first ship they had built had received that name which they had so much reason to respect.

I write this my dear Madame, in great haste being about to set out on an excursion to the North: and I write in consequence of having this moment to my mortification that you are & were in Brighton: though all my enquiries failed to make me acquainted with the fact – Revd. Messrs. Owen, Rigo [?], Gouldy & Messrs. Lawrence & Booker with a long etceteras, were the persons of whom I unsuccessfully enquired.

In haste but with much sincere respect, I have the honor & pleasure to remain my Dr. Madame, yr. most faithful & Obedt. Servt.

George Bennet

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P.S. Should any providence happen to bring me into the neighbourhood where you may be, I would avail myself of the opportunity of mentioning a few things respecting the Islands and the remembrance of high respect in which the late Dr. Haweis is held there.

I expect to be at Chester on the 17th inst. for some days – and at Bath on the 2nd. October November for some days: afterwards in London and should you find leisure & inclination to write a line it will give pleasure & confer honor.

Mrs. Haweis

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Letter from Henry Bicknell to William and Mary Bicknell, 20 July 1797 [copy]

[written in a different hand : curious early letter of the Missionary Bicknell]

My dear Brother and Sister Wm. & Mry Bicknell

I Henry Bicknell hope that You and Your family are in Good helth as I am thanks be ascribed to the Giver of all Providential mercys I know not how it is with You O that all may be well with You and Yours and You Inabled to Cast and leve all Your Care on him Even Jesus who Careth for You and Gave him a Ransom for Sinners it is a Subject of great Consolation to me that All power is in the hands of Jesus and when Anchous thoughts press in upon me Respecting You I am inabled to Enquire of and leve You in the hands of our able Saviour and then I have Ease to my mind and Nether you nor me Can by our Care alter one Common occurance in Life but the Lords tender mercys is Over all his works it is now Nearly to Years since I Saw You I have had many ups and downs in that time but God is my Strong Refuge, O that I Could Love him as I ought I do expect the Ship here in a few days and I have not the Letters Ready for I have had much work to do Since I have bin hear and the Days are not 12 hours Long So I wright this by the Moon Light on Some Boards I have this day Saw'd out I often feel thankful that I feel not dispos'd to be Idle when there is work to do & that have Bin ever Since I came hear I hope in some future time I shall be free from such Intanglements as I now have when I do any thing for the natives they Give us plenty of provishons for it they are very fond of Beadsteads and Boxes I have made then several and Yesterday finished a Beadsted for the kings father Uncle and have one making for the kings father I have made him Boxes the natives are very much afraid of us

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I have learnt one of them to Saw in the pit and he is Very handy at the Bench and tis Said he is one of the Best of them he is my friend when we Came on Shore the natives were Very Eagar to form friendship with us and in Order to be our friend they will Bring Us hogs and Cloth Breadfruit Coconuts and plantans & Give Us there names and take ours to them the natives Call me by there way of my friend tapi hoay [?] I forbid many of them to Call me so and tell them to [?..] henry I have Rec'd many things from my friend he helps me In the Language and takes Care of my things they have not many manners among them when we Sit down to our meals some times 3 or 4 score will be looking on as they are very fond of our things they Strip before Captain Cooks picter as they do before their King Their king and Queen are Carred on Mens Shoulders thay Sit on one man with there Legs hanging down before his Breast they each have there man and Change when he is tired the Country is very Mountainous and if thay had Coaches and horse's they could not go where the man goes if the king was to Come into our house the natives must [?...] not more when he is in our district he of often at our door beging for one thing or other we are Glad he will not come in we Call him some times But he will not Come in our house that we are in now is so Inclos'd with Round Strait Sticks tied up there was not one nail in it before we Came tho' it was finish'd it is more that twice as Large as Yeovil Chapel we have had a great number of fleas in it the natives tell us that Captain Blith brought hear thay harbors in the Sand they Bite Very sharp & they are so [numerous] that we Brush them of our Legs with our hands when we Go to Bed I am often Oblige to Go out in the night and Stand in the Sea my Legs are so Bitten One would think the Bite of a flea a small thing But we must pray for pations even to bare that

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we expect to Go over the Island to Learn the Language when the Ship is Gon.
Dr. Brother I Cannot here send Every Common accurance which took place Since I Left You it is Seed time know Dr. Brother So not to the flesh But Learn to Live as You would wish to die in the favour of God tiss not allways Best when all things are smoth and providence smile on us in the begining of our Interprize we do not know what we are nor how weak we are till Days of trial Comes the [?..] will only destroy your Enimeys it is now winter with you and summer with You and Day with us and night with you it may be I may see you again but as Life is uncertain and death shure it becomes us to prepare to meet before God and then may we part no more.

Dr. Brother please to Improve the minds of Your Children and lose no time and incorage them to Instruct one another in Reading Little Children Love one another and fear and Serve God and Glorify his name in the Earth Seek him in Youth and You Shall find him may he be your God and may you be his Sons and Daughters Read his word Seek him while he may be found Call upon his name flee Youthful lust Obstain from all apearance of Evil honour Your parents and Seek the kingdom of God and his the Righteousness thereof and all Other things Shall be aded unto You Jesus alone is the Saviour for of Lost Sinners aply to him for Yourselves You have a sure promas Those that Seek me Early Shall find me Seek with all your hearts the Lord do You Good and Bring You to zion Dr. Brother & Sister I must Conclude Give my Love to the paster of the Church and all that Enquire after my welfar and all that Love my Lord and my God my Love to You all the Everlasting arms be underneath You may the Lord Bless You indeed and keep You from Evil and bring You to heaven

Henry Bicknell

Matavy Otaheite July 20 - 1797

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This letter was Sent to Wm. Bicknell
Nether Compton Nr. Sherborne
Dorset.

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Letter from Henry Bicknell to Thomas Haweis, 25 Dec. 1799 [copy by Thomas Haweis]

December 25. 1799
Otaheite

Rev'd & dear Sir –

As there is now an Opportunity of sending a few Lines, I think it my duty to embrace it, as I am persuaded that they will be received by your Honour, tho' imperfect, may the Lord Spare your Life for his Glory & Service. I hope you & yours are in good Health both in body & Soul, may Grace Mercy & peace be unto you. When we hear from you it is indeed good News from a far Country. May the Lord bless the Land in which you live. I feel its Troubles & rejoice in its privileges. In this Country we cannot call any thing our own, for the King is often begging what we have left, and 'tis dangerous to deny him, as 'tis his Custom to take all from those that refuse to comply with his request, & sometimes their Lives. I cannot here enumerate all the circumstances attendant but the Lord has preserved us & our habitations, while even the natives' houses have been in flames around us, & they escape for their Lives. I cannot here enumerate all the Circumstances attendant on us Since we left you. Two ships are now here, & four have been here before Since the Duff left us. Messrs. Meades & Roads were very liberal to us, & we were obliged to request a musket from them for the Cheifs, & now they are on us again for more muskets after all that has been done for them. I am ashamed to beg for them, & by no means would if I could avoid it. We know it is for our Interest to keep the favour of the Cheifs, but it grieves us to do it this Way. I have been at work for them, & ourselves ever Since I have been here. We have our House built, & I have made for the Cheifs Bedsteads, Chests, Chests of drawers of Hardwood for them & finished a Boat, & lately about 100 combs out of Hardwood for them. They are a very idle people themselves, & yet are very pressing for any thing I do for them.

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All kinds of food are in common here, tis a bad Commonwealth, therefore we cannot grow any thing.

March 29, 1799. 11 of our Brethren embarked for Botany bay four Women, & four Children, this was a time of trouble to me & to us all. And when Brother Lewis took one of these Women to wife was another time of trouble, & left us. I felt much for him but told him I did not approve of his Conduct in that respect. July 9th 1798 he left us, & lived a troublesome Life among the Natives alone till Novr. 27 1799, when he died, we know not how. As soon as we heard of it Novr. 28 early in the morning we went to him, & found him laid on his Bed, with many bruises to his Head, & Blood still running out of his Ears; His body much Swelled. We enquired of his Wife, how he came in this State. She said that he did it himself last night, & there was no body to hold him. The people tell many different Stories, & we cannot tell whether he was killed, or died a natural Death. He had not been well for a long time, & was much troubled with the Colic. If he was murdered, 'tis reported it was done by his Father in law. The reason not assigned by them. We made a Coffin & buried him, in as decent a Manner as we could. This was a tragedy truly shocking to human Nature, yet the people appeared not at all concerned. His Wife saluted us with Yourana & a smile at our Arrival: When we enquired the Manner of his Death, she said he was walking last Evening outside his House, & fell down on the Stones, & she being within heard a noise, & she went out & saw him struggling & beating himself on the Stones, I asked her why she did not hold him, she said she went to call her Mother, & they were afraid. There are many reports, some of which are in the Journal. An English convict from Port Jackson went in the night to his house, & demanded the Keys of Mr Lewis's property of his Wife, so he took what was most valuable and went to a Small Island about 20 Miles S.W. The

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natives are very eager for his property the rest, so we had none of his property save the Books. We thought it not practicable to touch or have any thing to do with his Things as the Cheifs are so eager after them, least we should endanger our Lives. This was a time & Circumstances truly distressing in all its parts. Yet what the Lord doeth is right whether he take away his own from the evil to come or the Wicked in their Sin.

We are all well that are left. Many a Sigh & groan have been pressed from me, but all is well. I wish to live for no other purpose than the Glory of God in the Conversion & recovery of Lost Man, which was the End you had in view in sending us. If ever these people are brought to embrace the Gospel, the power must be divine, for no human can effect such a change as the Gospel can & must, if ever they are Saved. I know nothing would be more gratifying to YOU than to hear of the Conversion of the Heathen. It has been thought that this field is white for Harvest, I would hope against appearances that it is. Very often have I been talking to the Heathen about the Word & Works of God. They often say perhaps 'tis false, yet some appear to have received the Word. I have seen the Tears run from their Eyes while I have been speaking to them of the Love of God, but not change in Life in them. I know not the language as I ought considering the time I have been here. Yet am not behind all. Dec 10th 1798 was a time of rejoicing with me, for I thought the Lord was beginning to work on these poor people. I found the Lord enabled me to talk to one poor Man so as that he appeared to be truly concerned about his future State, & was very pressing to hear more, & to be taught to pray. He told me what he felt, which made one hope that a work of Grace was begun. He appeared to be concerned for his relations saying he would go & tell them what he knew. I took this Man to assist me to talk to others, & he could make them understand what I meant better than I could. Very little has been yet done for

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them because we want Words. We are engaged in a Work of time, both you, & we, and we stand in as much need of Patience as Husbandmen. I wish to mind present Duty, & the Lord's Will be done. I find the Word & Throne & Presence of God are very good in this Land. Dear Sir, I have taken great Liberties in this Paper, please to excuse & forgive Faults. My respects to the right Hon'ble Lady Ann Erskine. My duty to you with the honourable Missionary Society, & to the Revd. Mr. Wilks & all his, & the Revd. Mr. Eyre, Mr. Love & Mr. Platt, & the Revd. Mr. Hill. We have heard there was a thanksgiving for the Duff's safe Arrival. Least I should be further Troublesome I beg to subscribe myself yours affectionately

H. Bicknell

Grace & Peace be with you all

PS. I want nothing for myself, but if you send a few Box locks & butts they would be of great Service to the Cheifs.

Sir – I am doubtful whether my Brother Still lives at No.7 Little Portland Street Cavendish Square, therefore I have taken the liberty to direct his Letter to you, if you please to send your Servant with it to him, if not, please to direct it to my Father John Bicknell over Compton near Sherborn Dorset.

My Brethern here join in Love to you.

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Letter from Henry Bicknell to his parents, and to church members, 28 Dec. 1799 [copy by Thomas Haweis]

Otaheite Dec 28th 1799.

Honr'd & dear Father & Mother

Grace Mercy & Peace be multiplied unto you. I know you will be glad to hear from me, & 'tis my Duty to write you in compliance with your request. 'Tis more than 3 years ago that I received a letter from you at Spithead. Since that time I know not what has taken place. I have received many Mercies and blessings from God Since. I hope & know you have likewise, & may the Lord Grant that your latter Days may be good Days, & that his Blessing may be upon you, that you may see the Church of God flourish, & Peace upon England. 'Tis natural for fathers of families to reflect on the Situation of their Children, & how they are like to do in the World, but tis very comfortable to reflect that when this life is over they shall sit down together in Glory. Father I am now in good Health and have all my Wants Supplied. We are here together six Men & one Woman, & live as one family. We have family worship twice every day. We talk to the people as we are able. I have learnt much of the Language of this Country and hope to know as much of it as will enable me to talk to the people in some measure consistent with the Truth, a person may get as much of it as may enable him to skim the Surface but it is necessary for us to get a critical knowledge of it in order to translate the Scriptures into their Language. I find a great difficulty to go thro' a whole Chapter, & put it in the Tongue of this Land, and in Conversation am often cramped for want of Words. I often think what a Christian ought to do which have not the Manners which we have, but if his Mouth was opened in God's Cause all around him would understand him. These people are in a pitiable State without God in this World, or hope of his favour in the next. I cannot say that

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none of these people ever prayed, they have. I hope the time is near when a Church will be formed of them. There has not been any preaching among them, which they, we think, understood, but conversation. Please to remember me at a Throne of Grace and the Heathen. Give my Love to the Church at Yeovil & the Church at Compton. Mr. Brett & Mr. Strong, and all who love our Lord Jesus Christ Grace be with them all. Send me a letter as soon as you can find a Ship coming this way. My love to you & yours. Peace be with you my father and Mother. I am & wish to be yr. dutiful Son

H. Bicknell.

Dec 28th 1799 Otaheite

Dear Brethren & Sisters

I hope these Lines will find you all in good Health, as they leave me thro' divine Love. May Grace Mercy & Peace be multiplied to you. As I have this Opportunity I send this one letter to you all, as I cannot write individually, therefore if you are not together please to sent it to those who are farthest from you, that receive it first or a Copy of it. I cannot here particularize all that has occurred to me since I left you, when our Journals reach you, they will inform you more than a letter can. I have not met with more difficulty than I ought to have expected tho' I have been in many troubles, & God has delivered me out of them all & his tender Mercies towards me are many & free. There is a mutual Love between us, he loves me and I love him. The Creator & a Worm. Could it be known what he hath done for me, one would think it would make a Stone melt. I am yet ungrateful & forgetful. Love is joined with power in God for us; 'tis infinite incomprehensively great & durable Love. He condescends to be our Father & our Friend at all times. If the Lord had not been on my Side & preserved me

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I should have been I know not where, e're now. O that my worthless Life may be devoted more than ever to his Service & Glory. I can now write for your Comfort that all is well with me in this Place, & I am well. Tis well, for I am in the Hands of him who has promised to make all things work together for good to his people, and as our Day [?] he hath engaged his strength shall be. He hath made good his Word to me - & he will fulfill his promise to you, if you are in the Covenant of Grace. See to it Brethren & Sisters, each one for yourselves - Tis well likewise because what the Lord hath promised he is able, & also will perform for his own Glory & our good. Tis well because I am in the Path of Duty. Our Lord came down from Heaven to save Sinners and I am come from what you enjoy to tell them of it and to invite Sinners to come to Jesus Christ for Life. Here is room for more Labourers. O that God would send them. & we should rejoice to see & receive them.

Be not overmuch concerned for me. The Time is short & we shall soon leave this World, & go, to our father's House, & there rest from all our Labours. Labour to be found in him, my friends, that when Death comes, it may be said of you, He & She died in the Lord, and you on the other side find it true. O that I also may be counted worthy to meet you all at the right hand of him, who is the Judge of quick & dead. It is more than three years that I saw or heard from you. I have enjoyed a good Share of Health and Strength since I have been here, save when I have overworked myself which has been twice at Sawing at the Pit. I have many temptations in the Land, that are not known with you, & while carnal Men cannot Stand against them, He hath kept me to this Hour. I feel I am flesh & blood too, and it is only from hence I stand having obtained Help from God. He is able

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to keep you & me by his mighty power from the Teeth of the [Eater?] and in his time to bring us to himself. I tell you, that it is good for me to draw near to God in prayer, 'tis very Good. His words are sweet, come taste & see &c. remember I am your Brother & where I am, & when tis well with you, pray for me as I do for you. The Lord has given me much favour among the people. The King's father & Mother, are literally our nursing Father & Mother. They send us Supplies of food very often & no one here injures our persons. Yet may steal our property, as they are without Law. They are poor Heathens. They have received many things on our Account, & they still expect more, and when any ship touches here, that we will use our Influence to procure Muskets for them, as these & Axes are what their hearts are most set upon. O that they were set upon divine things. I have made many things for the principal people of the Land, such as bedsteads, Chests of drawers & Boxes, Chests & Combs, & finished a boat for the King's father, & have promised to make the King one. We have one begun for ourselves. To get timber & to saw it is the Hardest part of our Work. Be so good as not to expose this Letter I mean it for my Father & Mother, Brethren & Sisters. Please give my Love to all my Xtian friends, I have not time to write to them now. If any of you know any of the Directors, please to give my Love to them. When you are disposed, pray for me. All Seamen that touch here are very friendly to us. Those of you that have Children I would advise you to instruct them to read & Spell well and instruct them how to answer to the parts of Speech, you know not which of them may stand in need of it, & it will injure none. I must conclude with my love to you & all yours I subscribe myself

Yr. loving Brother
H. Bicknell.

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Letter from William Edwards to Thomas Haweis, 22 Dec. 1799 [copy]

[annotation at top : Copy by T.H. of a letter of Edwards : Search for a deserter – violence – religious talk &c]

Dec 22 [17]99

Revd. & dear Sir,

I have taken the Liberty to trouble you with a few Lines having an Opportunity which I never expected in my native Country. I hope this will find you in Health, & at the feet of the lovely Jesus & sinking deeper into his Spirit & more constrained by the Love of Christ to send his Gospel to every place where a door in providence is opened.

I came on board Thursday week, and preached for the first time Friday to the Convicts. On Saturday one died: Before he was thrown over board Brother Edmonds read the Burial Service, & I gave an Exhortation to the Convicts, on Sunday the Captain promised us that we should preach on the Deck, which we intended to do twice, & twice to the Convicts, but some regulations took place, which prevented, & we had preaching only once on the first Sabbath Day. Dr. Vanderkemp preached, and once in the week I have preached since. They pay the greatest attention, & some express the greatest thanks. Tuesday a King's Cutter came along side, & the officer boarded our Ship in search of some deserted Seamen. They saw three hide themselves among the Convicts & pursued them. The Convicts knew the Circumstance, and illtreated one of the officers, & some would have killed him, if he had not cried out to Spare his

Life. He came up from them streaming in blood. And we might expect to have the same treatment if only we looked to an Arm of flesh according to the foolish wisdom & reasonings of Man, but our King Jesus

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has all hearts in his Hands, & all power both in Heaven and Earth, and he can make the vilest of Men Submissive to him & his Children. I hope to morrow by the blessing of the Lord that we shall have Service four times, twice on the Quarter Deck & twice in the Hold among the convicts. Dear father in Christ, I find the want now more than ever of that zeal and the teaching of the blessed Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ, which some poor worldly wise & deluded Souls, who are something in their Own Eyes, call Enthusiasm. I find daily more of my Ignorance for that Work in which I am engaging, but God can work as well by Ram's Horns, as by a Silver Trumpet; & God hath chosen the foolish things of this World to confound the wise, & God hath chosen the Weak things of this World to confound the Things which are mighty, & base things of the World, & things which are despised hath God chosen, yea & things which are not to bring to nought things that are, that no flesh should glory in his presence: and therefore tho' I am without strength in myself my Sufficiency is of him, and I know without his Spirit our weak Labours will come to nought, but I have greater reason than Ever to praise God for his wonderful Love to me. Though the Difficulties before me to Men of this World might be mountains, they are become a plain, when by faith I can look to my Lovely Saviour; tho' even my prayers & praises are all mixed with Sin: yet if there was a call to me to return to be King of my native Land, by no means would I change for the work that the Lord has given me

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to do.

We sailed from Spithead Thursday the wind continued fair all Day & night. Friday it tacked about and we were obliged to put into Waymouth road, the wind blowing as we came in very fresh. Dr. Vanderkemp was a little sick, & my other Brethren were very Sick for the Second time. I have reason to be thankful in that respect, as it has not had the least effect on me. My Brethren are in good Spirits and I think my father the Doctor looks better than when he left London. We have been as yet all pulling together, & I hope the Lord will continue that Spirit of Love, that we may be as the Heart of one Man. My Brethren desire to be remembered their kind Love to you: Should be happy if you will be so good as to write a few Lines, as we stop some days. The Duff with our Brethren lies at Anchor a little a head of us. May the Lord bless you, and cause his Face to Shine upon you. I humbly thank you for all past favours.

Your sincere friend
Wm. Edwards

On Board the Hillsborough Dec.22 Portland Roads

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Letter from Henry Bicknell to his sister Ann, 11 July 1797 [copy made by John Russell and sent to Rev. Saltren]

Rev'd Sir,
I send you a Copy of ye Letter we received ye 21st July which is as follos

Meallavye Oteahitey.

My Dear Sister Ann, As we are at such a distance I gladly embrace this opportunity to Converse with you 'tis not with me Out of Sight out of mind but I no that Love you & hope to Live to Live with you for Ever in Heaven. After a few days moor when we have finished our Cours hear belo I hear we shall have no moor Sin nor Sorro but we shall see & be lick hem home we Should Love moor. I hope you ar if ye Lord will a Live & well O that all the blisings of Providence & Grace may a bound too wards you & you be made every day Moor thanckfull to God. It is a pleashur to live near hem & hear from Eatch other often. But if I was with you or you with me we Could not remove one Pain From ye bodey or lingthen out Eatch others Span. But I now sit in my Birth on a Heathen Shour & wright to & thinck of you being on ye other side of ye world from me & in our way hear we came under Som Part of ye west of England but went many thousand mils after wards being toss up and down many months. Les than we expected the Lord brought us hear March ye 5 1797 Sunday and I came a Shour ye 8th when I was with you I did not know that I should Come out in this wourk – If you receved my Leters I sent you from Spit hed you may see ye Leadings of Providence in Part that brought me to offer my unwourthy Serves. It may be you which [wish] to now how ye Came on: we Came three hunderd forty nine Degres and upwards on ye weaters [waters] we Came over ye Gret South Sea. It was Common for ye to go 7 or 8 mils in an ouer [hour] it is a gret Length to have to go [20940?] mils on ye bosom of ye Gret deep we had a very faverable voige & are Saff Landed on Otaeahitey and have one Districk given us Sevrell mils Long It is a very Fertile Contry Our Food coms from ye tres & ye Nativs Clothing which is very good for ye Clement Our bread requires nothing but baking & half a lofe is suffichent with a Plantain or two for a meal when ye nativs Dress any met the Taperoy kill a boor hog and then rub too Sticks together till thay ar on Fire and then thay make Several Stons reed hot & then thay poot som in ye holey & ye hog & ye rest under & over him & thay poot bread Frute with him and Cover it over with Levs and then Earth & let it remain a bout an Ouer & half and then it is well don But I don't Lick thare maner of dresing there Food thay bring it too us undrest & we dres our Food as we Lick

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I often thinck ye have moor than Pilgrims fare For ye abound in Every thing that we Could which [wish] we Stand as Long as held up ye Power of ye Living God I find in his Presens is Life hear as well as in England yea Durabell Peace & tranquilety ar ye Everlasting arm of Jehovers Love. Bless him my Sister Love him my Soul and Let ye houl [whole] Earth kindreds Youngs & Pepell Praise Our God. I find mouch Concolachen in thos words, the Lord they God. Is he yours, then all is yours and then you & I may Sing & tell of our beloved I which I could give you a minuite account of our Prosidings. I beleve I shall lern ye Langue of thes people & that it may be Soon. I Should be Glad to hear you have ye Gospell Preached to you & receve ye benefets of it to your Soul. I beleve I Shall never forget to pray for your wefar. Let us Strive to attain to Eternell life & ye Kingdom of our Father I Shall be glad to met you and your Dear Partnr and Ofspring in Glory I hope you will not poot anything in Computation with Eternal Life and ;your Poor Soul. While I was in the Duff coming hear it was lick to Catch fire throu' the Pitch Pot bing up Set in ye Fier we saw many Larg fish & wals now the Ship is Com & thear is mouch to be don. It will soon go from us Our Friends in London ye Derectors was verely liberel to us and Sent plenty of things of all Sorts both Books & touns and Cloths and Every thing Els that we wanted and mour than we Could Expect we wear repetedly asked what we wanted when we wear in London and mouch moor was Went than we requested so I have Sen that ye Lord have [?] and If he see Fit to tack it all away I hope he will [?] a hart to Say Blesed be the Name of ye Lord For he dos all things well Bless his Dear Nam. The rood is made for [?] Fools back while we are ye Subjects of Sin and fooley we may Expect ye rood in Someway or Other but 'tis only our Fathers Love to us & then our [Hroucks?] ar Lighter than our Crims it is only Correction in this Lif But what morel noeth ye wait of an angry God and of Crist. I am Satisfied hear and hope not to go from my Post tell my Lords time Tiss to me a Pleashsur & a Pain to write to you I am not without my

feelings for you as a brother but aster all my Concern I love you with my Pen: may you be ye
Lords

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I which to admesster some Comfort to you: may you be Supplided with that from ye
Fountenhed which your Frinds cannot communicate. The Lord is the Best of masters & frinds
to me and I Love him & his wourk you afourded me mouch Comfort by Saying in your Letter
that he was wourthy for him we should do this so he is & Ssouls ar prechous and exposed to
Eternal wrath Jesus Shed his blood to redem his pepl. We ar to tell of his Love to siners and
ye natur and pour [power] of his Blood to Clenss farom Sing the Giltey Souls of men. I have
not Suffer'd aneything as yat sinss I have ben ingaged in this wourk an one of my frinds in
London tould me I may be looking forward for moor triels then ever may com I have expecterd
moor than I have yat seen.

We ned not to be afraid of ten thousand of enemyes round a bout us For nothing Shall by any
mens hurt us as we do not ingage in this warfar at our one Expencc I know that nothing can
hurt us but Sin neither can it unles it have ye dominion over us I am not afraid of any thing but
Sin. That thear is maney plots laid for us yat non will be e fectual & thar will be no Inchantment
against us tell our Sin ar ye Procuring Casse of Correction my Sister induer hardness in the
Lords ways he will give you Stringth for it a bove Every tryel he Cals you too and Soon you may
be brought to glory to Sing of sovering grace & redeming Love we S hall be out of ye reach of
troubell & Crying when ye Lords time Coms and that will be a good time thearfour rejoice For
your redemchen drayeth nigh I ould request you to see to it wheather you which [wish] for no
moor religen then will sarve you tell you Com Just within Heavens gates Speacc'hing after ye
manor of men or no which is not marck of a Crisitan but hoo Ever Loveth God is born of him
and ho ever Loveth God Siketh for a noledge of him in all his perfectchens. Let God have your
hart. Let ye would go as it may if you ar ye Lords then all his is ;yours and if you Love God then
it [will?] be your met & your drinck to do his will and wourk [?] Poor Siners the deplorabell Sstate
to which sin have brought them and what Jesus has don to redem them.

Be Strong yea be Sstrong the Law and Conchance in ye hand of ye Spirit is the mens to bring
us to Jesus as Lost Siners and ruind by Sin and no such coms Sent Emty away. -

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But ar receved and made alive and the undon in them Selvs yat Justified Frely by his Grace
being the purchous of his Death and ar made Comley through his Comlynes put on them and
have a Song of prais put in thear mouths and Love holynes & hate Sin
thear Feet ar tourned & harts Chaged [changed] I moust Conclude whiching you all that Pes
and Joy in beleving in Jesus which all his peapell In Joyeth. What Information you may which
to no moor pertickler respecting me you may get mor inteligence from Father or Andrew and
Others tis hard for me to Com the Say adeiue my Love to your Childering may God Save
you all Bless and keep you from Falling and at Last bring you to Glory

July 11th 1797

I am your Brother
Henry Bicknell

Sir we humbley thanck you for ye Convayence of ye Letter
I am with ye Gretest Respect you most humbell Sarvent
John Russell

July 28 1798

[Cover]

For ye Revd.
Mr Saltren Bridpourt
Dorset.

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Letter from William Crook to Matthew Wilkes, 16 Nov. 1797

Duff Harbour of Rio Janerio Coast of Brazil 16th Novr. [1797]

Revd Sir

As a tribute of Gratitude I beg your acceptance of a simple yet faithful Narrative of our voyage to this place;

Sept. 22nd, after taking leave of Dr. Haweis we anchored nearer the shore for the night, and before the sun rose in the morning 23rd, the Commodore fired a Gun, and we all got under way and sail'd with the fleet about 60 Sail, with the Aramant & fly sloop. I chose a committee, made some regulations regarding our studies, watching, &c. saw portland light at night.

24th. In the evening lay to off plymouth and made signals to the port, sail'd again, the fly made all sail from us, at 12 at night received a signal to lay to and drifted down the channel.

Lords Day 25th. Most of us very sick, detained off falmouth, put letters on shore, exchanged the fly sloop for a frigate, and sail'd again; soon lost sight of land. Continued very sick till 28th when we were enabled to resume our studies, could not sail as fast as we would wish for some heavy sailers and could only carry our top sails.

30th. Parted with the fleet after giving the usual signal; hoisted all sail and was soon out of sight of the fleet, a prayer meeting on this occasion.

Lords Day Oct. 2nd. The ordinance of the Lords supper administered and Ward preached was a sweet & precious cordial to us at this time, being situated on the mighty waters and nothing to be seen but sea & sky.

Oct. 6th. Saw Maderia Island the first land we had seen since we left england, very high land partly covered with clouds a beautiful prospect.

7th. Heavy showers of rain confined us between Decks.

8th. Saw Palma one of the canaries at a distance.

10th. crossed the tropic of cancer. Saw a strange sail, after she had manuvered with us for some time, and we displayed no signs of fear, hauled her wind and ran away.

12th. Observed a solemnity of fasting and prayer.

13th. Saw one of the Cape de Verde Islands, Sal, or Salt Island, a very barren & Uninhabited spot, could not observe a shrub on it. In the afternoon saw Bona Vista and some ships in the harbour.

14th Saw Mayo and sailed under the east side of it, saw 4 Vessels in the port. As soon as we lost sight of this Island saw St Jago, and about 2 OClock cast anchor in Port Praya Bay; an american vessel lay there promised to convey letters, but we did not expect much confidence some few letters were sent; this Island lays in 14 Degrees north Latitude and is very hot.

15th. Went on shore, a great surf on the beach, the water was very bad; we obtained hogs & poultry, but they were remarkably poor, Coca nuts, bananas, plantains, Oranges, lemons, Dates &c. for old cloaths. Dr. Gillam paid the Governor a visit, who was ill, very kindly entertained; completed our water, and sail'd again the same day.

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[continuation of page 1 of letter by William Crook]

18th. Spoke the Jack Park of Liverpool a guinea man bound to the coast of africa for slaves, the first ship we have spoke at sea.

19th. Saw some water spouts at a distance a wonderful prospect.

20th. Sudden Squalls accompanied with rain but not very violent.

22nd. A Dead clam all Day several sharks playing around the Ship, I caught one with hook and line, about 5 feet long and another was caught a little larger.

29th. Crossed the Equinoctial line.

31st. Saw the Island of Ferdinand Noronha on the coast of south america it appeared like a church & steeple at the distance of 9 or 10 Leagues.

Nov. 2nd. Saw several portuguese men of war* round the ship, caught some in a bucket, they are pretty pink coloured bladders in the shape of a very curious shell, and sail as a ship on the waters.

Nov. 6th. The Sacrement of the Lords supper was administred, and we had great reason to bless our God for providing a table for us in the wilderness.

Nov. 7th. Met together at 4 Oclock corresponding with your time of 1/2 past 6 to unite in prayer with our dear friends in england being the first Monday in the month.

* Call'd so by seamen.

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Nov. 10th. Saw land from the top mast head it is on the coast of South america. Sailed very swifrtly at the rate of 8 an 9 knots and the ship had very little motion.

11th. Saw Cape Fris and altered our course more to the westward, but as we could not reach Rio in Time, we plyed off and on to spend the night.

12th. At day break stood in for the shore. spoke a boat but none on board her could speak english the land we now saw formed a different prospect from any we had yet seen the tops of the mountains were hid in the clouds and the hills near the shore covered to the top with fruit trees we passed by several small Islands which were neatly covered with verdure. The Harbour of Rio Janeiro which we now saw form'd a most beautiful prospect there were several fortified Islands in the midst and on the main land we saw a beautiful aqueduct containing as we supposed about 50 Arches extending across a valley between two mountains we could observe the marks of their superstition the cross erected on the top of the hills and in the forts the harbour master came on board and piloted us to the place where we were to anchor where we were strictly watched and guarded by soldiers in a large boat night & day.

Lords Day 13th. We expected to be interupted in our worship but they behaved very quietly and

14th. Some gentlemen came on board and examined the ships log book and other papers sent the first and second mate on shore and soon after the Captain where they were strictly examined, we however obtained leave to go ashore but not without a guard. We expect to leave this place on Sat next and now I beg leave to remark how kind is the providence of god has been to us we have passed thro the torrid zone except perhaps a few miles and have hardly known what the Scorching rays of the sun is we have sail'd above 5 Thousand miles and have not known what bad weather or illness is in any degree we have not known the want of any thing outwardly and we have had the Peace of God I trust reigning among us. Brother Harris whom I trust the Lord hath made of one heart & one mind with me in a particular manner desire to be remember'd to you with Brothers Puckey & others present our love and respects to your happy family Mr & Mrs Shrubsole Mr & Mrs Legell & all our dear friends with our sincere thanks for all past favors. Sir you will greatly oblige me to send to my Sister No.5 Leigh St. Red Lion Sqr. And give my Love to her & family & tell them I make mention of them daily in my prayers and also to send to my Uncle Serjt. Wakeham Royal Military Artificiers Plymt. Dock or

elsewhere and give him my humble respects with as much information as you may think proper. I have not written to my other since I left Spithead but leave it entirely to my uncle as I would wish you to mention. I know not how to express thankfulness to Mr Godfrey for his particular kindness to me but to conclude I am astonished and struck with wonder when I look back to times past and also to the present time to see how conspicuous has been the hand of God with me and for me the most ungrateful of all his creatures, & "if his worth the nations knew sure the whole Earth would love him too." I am Sir

Your servant in the Gosple of Christ Jesus Wm. Crook

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The Revd. Matw. Wilkes
Old Street Road
London (England)
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Letter from John Davies to the Directors of the London Missionary Society, 23 Feb. 1810

Sydney N.S. Wales Feb. 23 1810

Honoured Fathers and brethren

As we are now favoured with an opportunity, we thought it a duty not to let it slip; your not hearing oftener from us during the past two or three years, was not the consequence of neglect, but of necessity, we had no Opportunities to send letters nor journals.

The place from which this letter is dated, will probably strike you at first Sight, with the idea that the Taheetean Mission is broke up and the Missionaries Scattered. It is really the case, and how it came to pass, this letter is designed to explain, but we must be brief referring to the journals for minute detail of the Circumstances. You probably, have been informed long before this, that war had caused the removal of most of us to Huaheene in Novr. 1808, a short letter was sent at that time giving some account of our Circumstances and the Providential arrival of the Perseverance the vessel which afforded us the means of saving our lives, and some of our property, by giving us a passage to Huaheene.

The open rebellion broke out in Taheete at the District of Matavae, in the night of Nov.6th. and it soon after spread thro' the Island. The families together with the Single brethren Davies, Tessier and Warner having made their escape to the Vessel, and so to Huaheene, the brethren Hayward, Nott, Scott & Wilson

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Wilson staid with the King, but were soon obliged to flee to Eimeo, where the king soon after followed them, having been defeated in an engagement with the rebels; and by this time all our houses had been demolished, our Gardens and plantations destroyed, our Cattle seized, and a great quantity of property which could not in time, be got on board the Perseverance, was plundered and taken away.

In the course of some months, the brethren at Eimeo joined those at Huaheene, brother Nott excepted who staid with the King. After the departure of the king and all the Missionaries, the Taheeteans resolved to take the first Vessel that should touch at their Island in order to get powder &c. in this they have been but too successful, for the Venus from Port Jackson fell into

their hand, one man was killed and the rest made prisoners but afterwards the Venus was retaken by Capt. Campbell of the Hibernia, and the prisoners ransomed.

Capt. Campbell (lately of the Harrington, but now) of the Hibernia narrowly escaped being (taken) murdered himself and his Vessel taken the means of his escape was a letter, written by the brethren and the king, while at Eimeo, and sent secretly to Taheete to be delivered to the Capt. of the first Vessel that should touch there. The king having after this, returned to Taheete with Capt. Campbell, again engaged the rebels, and was defeated with the loss of 24 of

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of his best warriors, after the battle, which was fought in the District of Faena [?], he retreated to Pare, and resolved to act on the defensive and keep his ground if possible, till the arrival of Tapoa with a reinforcement from Roatea and Borabora this step appeared absolutely necessary for there was famine at Eimeo and the king and his party could not subsist there.

Taheete being in such a distracted state, and it being probable that Pomare would not recover his authority, but that anarchy and confusion would spread through the Society islands as well as Taheete, and also the consideration of our little success together with the many discouragements arising from not knowing your views and proceedings in respect to us, having not received a line from you for several years past, these things determined our minds, and it appeared unto us the plain path of duty, to take a passage in the Hibernia to N.S.Wales, but the passage being by the way of the Fijees, it proved much more expensive than we would have wished. Capt. C. charged us £500 for our passage to the Fijees and £300 from thence to Norfolk island and Port Jackson, so that we were under the necessity of Volving [?] on the Treasurer of the Society for £800 in favour of Capt. Campbell.

These expenses we are apprehensive will be severely felt by the Society, but when all our Circumstances are known (which will be learnt from our journals) the propriety and necessity of the steps we have taken we think will be evident.

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This mysterious and perplexing Dispensation, cannot be more grievous to our friends and conexions than it has been to us. Our voyage likewise has been most tedious and dangerous.

We embarked at Huaheene Octr. 26th. 1809 and anchored in Sydney Cove Feby. 17th 1810. Among the Fijees, we have often been in imminent danger of shipwreck, and on the night of Novr. 11th. we struck on a reef and our Vessel was on it ten hours but it pleased the Lord to give us almost a miraculous deliverance. We have also met with bad weather and had great scarcity of provisions on board.

On our arrival in the Colony, we immediately acquainted his Excellency Governor Macquarie with our Circumstances and views, and his Excellency has been pleased to return us a favourable answer, promising us the priviledges of Settlers as soon as he has government men sent to him, recommending also that some of us should be employed in the education of youth.

Commodore Bligh also the late Governor treated us with kindness. Praying that the present dispensation may be overruled for good, and that we may be guided and directed in what is before us we remain,

Hon'd fathers and brethren
Your unworthy brethren and servants

John Davies for the Missionaries

To the Directors of the Missionary Society
London

[note in margin] Read Sept. 10. 1810 / N.S. Wales Duplicate

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Letter from Thomas Lewis to Thomas Haweis, 25 June 1797

Taheite in the district of Mattawai
June 25th 1797

Revd. & Dear Sir,

I thank God for your Wholesome counsels and instructions to me, whilst in my native country, with the affection shown towards me on certain occassions, of which I am daily sensible, and through the goodness of God I shall ever remember, and as a token of my affection and love please to accept of the following lines.

As the public Journal will afford you a more minute account of the Voyage than I am able to insert in a letter I beg leave to reffer you to it; but one thing I can't forbear mention. Shortly after the comencement of the Voyage a spirit appeared of a republican nature among some of the Missionaries that proved afterwards a sourse of many disagreeable circumstances. As we purposed to double Cape horn on the 3rd. of Decr. 1796, the wind blew so strong from the west as to cause a considerable storm which induced the Captain to relinquish the attempt, for we were now driven before the wind ; when this unfavourable circumstance took place, we were in Latitude 39 south. Longitude 50 west. the Captain resolved to run the Longitude, by the south cape of New Zealand, till we should come to or near the meridian of Taheite and at length on the 4th of March 1797, we saw land early in the morning which proved to be Taheite and soon after we saw Imeo (by the natives called More,a) on the larboard side. This sight greatly engaged our attention this, and the two succeeding days, the 5th being the sabbath we thought not to enter the Bay till the next day; however we went so near as to be perceived by the natives, and as soon as they saw us they were off in their canoes some missing and some making the ship, the deck was soon filled fore & aft, crying tyo, tyo, at this time some arms were delivered out to keep watch; but we were obliged to order them back to their canoes, then by order of their Chiefs they all lept over board and swam to their canoes; but some of the Chiefs stayed on board all night: the Missionaries were now divided into so many watchs to prevent

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theft or any other improper conduct on the part of the natives. Old manemane one of the chief priests was one of those who stayed on board and was very solicitous for some of the Missionaries to be sent to More,a; but no attention was given it. On the 6th. about 4 o'clock P.M. we anchored in Mattawai Bay: soon after the Captain and the Committee went ashore and were kindly received by the King and Queen; but Pomaro the King's Father not being then at Mattawai, the King could not desidedly accede to our proposals. March 7th. the Captain Called the Committee to the Cabbin and laid before them the necessity of going ashore as soon as

possible, and it was agreed they should go that afternoon; but when they called the rest of their Brethren between decks together, and laid the subject before them it was impracticable on account of the shortness of time to get the tools ready for their work: therefore it was postponed till the morrow, when about 9 o'clock March 8th. we (except the women & children) left the ship and went ashore, landing at point venus, we were met by the King and Queen who stood on the beach waiting for us in the midst of a vast number of the Inhabitants, and after viewing us for a short time accompanied us to the house. The Inhabitants are in general stout and well made though there are some but of middling stature. The Language is very barren having but very few words to convey spiritual Ideas, there are no words to express either Justice or Mercy or any other attribute of Jehovah save those of Goodness and Greatness, that we know of yet: but what is still a greater obstacle is their strong attachment to the idolatrous Customs of their ancestors, that it appears almost impracticable to dissuade them from their old practices, which at last will be attended with great difficulty, patience and length of time, and persuade them to receive Life and salvation thro' a crucified

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Redeemer but the consideration of God's Power and Promise, I trust will enable us to wait the appointed time to favour Zion, which God will hasten in his time. The natives most days visit our abode, and when they are addressed by an Interpreter they seemed attentive and the service being over, they were asked if they understood what had been spoken to them, they answered in the affirmative, saying that they not only understood, but that it was good, and sometimes, the answer was very good ; but deplorable is the sight, when we consider them sunk under the dominion of most detestable vices even of beastliness; the confusion mentioned by Moses is as common if not as constant as day and night, at present we can only lament over them, for we have not attained a competent knowledge as to address them without an Interpreter which is an impediment that may not be got over some time to come. They are exceedingly addicted to steal, for whatever they see, they are in love with it, as they term it, and consequently take it if possible; on account of that we are obliged to keep watch [all] night from 8 in the evening till 6 in the morning. The report [?] that they intend to possess themselves of the property after [the ship] has finally left us; but we hope the Lord will stand on our side. It is regretted respecting the Type that I am not able [to] pursue the plan laid before me by the Body of Directors, so much extolled and recommended in our Instructions; for some weeks ago I proposed to the Brethren to print a copy of the Language, so much as we have of it, for the greater facility in learning it, which was by all approved, consequently the place was fitted up, and the type distributed, then I began to compose, first the capital A failed now which after only one page and half, for this I substituted the lower case a and proceeded but when I had composed three pages only all the N.M. and larger Quadrants failed, the work stopped to the sorrow of the Brethren; I hope these things will be considered by the Society, and a fresh supply be sent us by the next ship. Please to return my hearty thanks to yr. Body of Directors and all well wishers to the Cause of God among the heathen, please to give my best respects to Lady Anne and as I have nothing different from the contents of this to write, I hope her Ladyship will excuse my writing a separate letter, my respects to Mrs. Haweis. Adieu.

I remain your affectionately in the
Gospel of Christ.

Thos. Lewis

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P.S. Dear Sir

Whereas William Stanton on board the ship Duff has expressed his ardent Desire of employing his talents and time as a Missionary at Taheite, and solicited me to signify the same to you; I hope you will set it before the society as such a character would, in my opinion, be very valuable to us, and as to his moral character I have seen nothing objectionable in it during the voyage.

Please to inform the Revd. Mr. Brooksbank that I am not able to write him a letter; but thank him for every kindness he hath shown me, and the same to Mr. Emerson.

[Cover]

Revd. Dr. Hawies
Spa fields
London.

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Letter from Henry Nott to Thomas Haweis, 4 Aug. 1812

[annotation at top] To Dr H. Nott Miss. announcing his marriage with a native woman, acknowledging favors.

Sydney New South Wales Aug 4th. 1812.

Dear Doctor,

Being detained longer than I expected I have an opportunity of sending a few more lines I forgot to acknowledge in my last, your present by Mr. Bicknel, which demands my warmest thanks. The Brethren wrote to Rev. Mr. Marsden desiring him to defray on the Societies account my expenses here; but through the kindness of our friends in the Colony no application has been made to him for that purpose only to defray the expense of my passage here and our passage back to Tahiti and to furnish us with a few articles for our equipment. I am very glad there is a person so near us, so capable of serving the Society and so willing to do it as the Rev. Mr. Marsden is. Another circumstance which I think is highly favourable to the Mission on these Islands is the kind disposition of that Gentleman

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towards the South Sea Islanders, which he ever manifests in acts of kindness towards all those who come within his reach. I think it is a great pity that the Directors wont accede to his proposals joined with those of the Missionaries to have a Ship here &c. Brother Hassal has behaved very well to Me and My dear and affectionate wife also Brother Crook and Sister Crook at whose house we now are have treated us in the most kind and Christian-like Manner. They have also many thoughts of joining us soon. I wish they may Mr. C in my opinion is a person exactly suitable to instruct the rising Generation in Tahiti. More Missionaries I think should immediately sent out, our ranks will soon be thinned by death, and our places must be supplied by others, or the enemy will gain ground. Medicines and a Medical person are much wanted, which I hope you Dear Dr. whom all the Missionaries consider as their very particular friend, will endeavour

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to send to us. I must now close this. My Dear Wife joins with me in presenting our Christian love and respect, hoping that you and your family are in the enjoyment of every blessing temporal and spiritual. I remain

Dear Dr. Your Most Obedt. & Humble.
Servant in the Gospel

H. Nott.

Rev. Dr. Haweis
Bath

PS I hope Dear Dr. nothing that I have written will be made publick.
Adieu

[annotation] NB Nott married a native woman who turned out very well. He was one of the best of the missionaries

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Rev. Dr. Haweis
Bath

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Letter from William Shelley to Thomas Haweis, 26 Jan. 1797

Tongatabbo Jan. 26 [17]97

Honoured Sir

I hope you will excuse the liberty I take of writing these few lines unto you.

April the 10th we arived at this place contrary to your expectation, but I trust not contrary to your desire. By this seperation that has taken place, there is every probility of a settlement being gained in three considerable groups of Islands. The Natives received and behaved to us with the greatest sivility. But the englishmen that we found here are much to the contrary having repeatedly threatened to kill us, and as we were informed by the natives thay desired them to do it ashuring them we had no firearms which when first we landed thay told the people we had. But blessed be the name of the Lord he still manifest that he will not leave nor forsake us we are in hopes that thay will leave us and go along with the ship.

The people amongst whom it has pleased the Lord to place us are as much before the Otaheirtans (for all kind of arts and sivilisation) as the English are before them. Thay seem to be a more numerous people and the government extends over many hundred of Islands, the language spoken here is the same as in most of the other Islands for some hundred of miles distant.

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It appears that this would be a very eligible place for establishing mission that from this places missions might be sent to the different Islands that surround us, tho there is no probability of us being settled as a body. Yet should the society think it prudent to send more labourers into this part of the heathen world (which calls loudly for them). There is every probability of that a permanent settlement might be formed, and our different occupations carried on without molestation, which indeed would be required should more missionaries come, for these people will not part any of the produce of their country without a return being made. Their covetousness for Iron tools is very great but they might be supplied at a much cheaper rate than is expected. A Single iron plain Iron is as much esteemed by them as many articles of an hundred times the value. The most likely articles for trade amongst these people is single Iron plane Irons from 1 in. and 1/2 to 2 1/2 in. that same kind of tools would be liked very much if larger but made thicker than they generally are for plain Irons. Also chisels large and small and Gimblets of all sises Grind stones wet stones and oil stones will be very prisable articles here all kinds of files will be much wanted by us and also rasps which are much esteemed by the natives. We have been able to please the natives by repairing their knives and sissors. I trust by our kindness we shall be enabled to gain their esteem.

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Hounerd Sir permit me to beg a favour of you. When I left my native home I had a friend whose ancious desire was to come along with me, but circumstances not permitting his promise was, if the will of God, to visit me the next time the ship came. His Father and Mother and likewise himself were worthy members of the church of christ of which I was an unworth member under the pastoral care of Mr. James Boden Hanley Staffordshire. Should ever esteem it a favour if you would write a few lines unto him and if he still continues in the same mind please to grant him the priviledge of coming to this place if it is desire. His name is George Greathatch [?] of Shelton Near Newcastle Staffordshire.

Dear Sir many are the trials that attend the missioner in all his ways. Much deadness prevailed with me during the voyage and now the cry of my soul is as that it was with me in days and months past. At times I have received presious visits from the Lord nor has an ancious disre been permitted to arise to return to my native land. But my desire is to go on in the work in which I am engaged may the Lord strengthen me for it & give me delight therein, let me beg an Interest in your prayers. May the Lord make you the hournerd Instrument of sending many faithfull labourers into his vineyard. The Brethren send love to you, Who with my self retun you thanks for the many kndnesses received from your hands.

I am Dear Sir Your Obedient Servant
Wm. Shelley

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[PS]
Dear Sir

You perhaps may be some what surprised at the return of Bro. [Nollby?] be ashured that it is alone on the account of sickness while he hath been here he has lived worthy of his character, may he still be usefull at home.

Wm. Shelley

[Cover]

The Revd. Dr. Hawis
Spa fields
London

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Letter from William Shelley to J. Bradley, 30 July 1797 [Copy made by J. Bradley and sent to Rev. John Eyre]

Sutton Coldfield July 14th 1798

Revd. Sir

Agreeable to your request I forward a copy of Wm. Shelley's letter to me. I had thought of correcting it in some measure but leave it to the better judgment of others, the matter as it gives unspeakable satisfaction to

Sir,
Your Friend & Servant
J. Bradley

July 30th '97 Friendly Islands Tongotaboo

Dear Friend,

According to your request I shall drop a few lines tho it be in a very feeble manner, I hope it will find you in health of body, & rejoicing in God our Saviour, that God into whose hands you did most kindly commit me, has protected me across the mighty waters, & landed me in safety upon a Heathen Shore. Many are the dangers we did encounter wile on board the Ship, often did the tempest roar around us, & the waves roll over our heads, sometimes it appeared that Satan had united the firey Elements above, & the waters beneath for our destruction, but the Lord manifested that he wou'd be with us even to the end of the World, He manifested that he alone is that God that holds the winds in his fist & the waves in the hollow of his hand, he said to them hitherto shall ye come & no farther & here shall your proud waves be stay'd. Soon after our departure from England our dear Captain inform'd us that he wou'd take us to any of the following groups of Islands, viz: Society, Friendly or Marqueses, short time after I with four of my Brethren agreed to come to the second place. I trust it was the dictates of the blessed spirit that caus'd us to offer a separation; for taking into consideration the most probable conclusion of such a stop we were led to think that it wou'd be a

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great means of facilitating this glorious work, as by the time the Ship wou'd return from England there was evey probability we shou'd have learn'd the language & have got a good footing amongst the Natives.

A short time before we arriv'd at Otaheita we had a meeting to know our several determinations respecting our future places of residence. When ten appear'd for the Friendlies, two for the Marqueses & the rest for the Society Islands, at which place we arriv'd March 6th 1797 all in perfect health & safety, after a voyage of nearly 22,000 miles.

Permit me to exort you with all that love the Lord Jesus Christ, to praise & bless his holy name, & forget not all his benefits, who crowneth our life with loving kindness & tender mercies. We were receiv'd by the Natives with the greatest readiness, after staying here three weeks & landing such things as we thought necessary, we took our departure for this place, being about 2000 miles distant from Otaheita. We arriv'd April 10th, as soon as the Ship had cast Anchor we were surrounded by a vast number of Canoes, the people all coming off arm'd, they appear'd a more warlike people than the Otaheitans & their Canoes at once prov'd them to be far more ingenious, soon after several Chiefs came on board, one of which told us he was the King, & made us to understand there was two of our Countrymen in the Island, they soon after came on board & could speak the language pretty well, the Captain inform'd them of our intentions, & desir'd their assistance, they told us who were the greatest Chiefs, & promis'd to bring an old Man on board who they represented to have the greatest power in the Island. Next morning the old Man came & was exceedingly pleas'd with our intentions, & promis'd to protect us & our things, next day we went on shore & took various articles with us, Thursday & Friday we fetch'd more, & on Saturday the Ship departed for the Marqueses. Some time after we had been on shore we found that our Countrymen were doing all in their power to hurt us, they told the people that they were Chiefs of England & we were Beggars, they stole our things, & when we by moving to another House to prevent that, they threaten'd to kill us, & strove to influence the Natives against us as much as they possibly cou'd, but our God who holdeth their Master in a chain has also restrain'd them from doing us any evil, the Natives have behav'd exceeding well & are very kind to us, the Country is remarkably pleasant & fertile & the People Industrious, there is everything

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that can make a place eligable for the establishment of a Mission, we are surrounded by hundreds of Islands whose language is the same & some hundred more that are in subjection to these people, we have had a great many invitations to go to live with other Chiefs in different Islands, & how many & great are the dangers the Lord has protected us in since we landed on these Heathen Shores, cou'd you have had a distant view of us, you would have thought the world wou'd know us no more, we have been surrounded by thousands of Heathens that valued our articles more than their own lives but the Lord was our protector, he has given his Angels charge concerning us that none shou'd come nigh to hurt us.

Shou'd you know of any friends that love the cause who wou'd be desirous to send a trifle as a present to the Heathen permit me to mention a few articles that will be most acceptable viz: Knives, Razors, Scissors, Looking Glasses, Fish hooks, & Iron tools of any kind, the last is most priz'd, also Beads &c.

Tho I have been brief hope you will favor me with a [...] a few lines from any that would do me the pleasure will be very acceptable, I am very content in the situation I am plac'd in, nor have I the least desire to return home. I have had & do enjoy a good state of health, & tho we have not the luxuries of London I trust the Lord will make me continue to be happy & content with such things as we have. I beg my kind love to all friends &c &c beg an Interest in Your prayers & am

Your Unworthy

Brother in Christ

Wm. Shelley

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Revd. John Eyre
Homerton
Near London

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Part of diary, 27 Dec. 1791-14 Jan. 1792, kept on Brig Chatham

Chatham Arm'd Brig
Matavia Bay Otaheite
Decr. 27 1791

We had no sooner come to an Anchor than we were visited by many of the inhabitants of the Bay; they brought some few Hogs, Cocoa Nuts and a little Bread fruit, which we purchased chiefly for Scissors, but the chief demand was for Axes and those they estimated most, was the long narrow mouthed Wood Axe; we were careful in parting with few of this kind that their value might be kept up until the arrival of the Discovery, when a much greater supply of Refreshments and necessaries would be required:

The Wind was very moderate from the Northward and during the whole day it was incessant heavy rain, but this did not prevent us from having the company of a great many of the Natives, indeed rather more than what was altogether wish'd crowded the Decks but as most of us were for the first time Spectators of so rare a scene, where the Children of Nature appeared secluded from corruption and untutored by Art, were by the most facetious docility trying every means of contributing to our pleasure; no jealous Ideas could awaken our minds to suspect their Innocence in the appearance of their Simplicity; but the drawing on of Night which made every one resort to the Shore, left the Vessel free for the first time since her Anchoring, when it was that those who before had been contemplating the virtuous simplicity of Our New Acquaintances, saw the picture changed and were now equally astonished at the dexterity displayed in the practice of a day's pilfering; In

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In looking around there was hardly a thing moveable upon the deck which those adepts had not found means to carry off, besides a number of small Articles of every quality but of no very material consideration, they had stolen one of the peoples hammocks, bedding and a great deal of clothing, and also the Vessel's Ensign from the Taffrail :

If Nature's School teaches such perfection, it will not be easy to discriminate between impulse and the best tutor'd Art : the circumspection to be used in admitting these people on board was now no longer a matter of opinion, the necessity of stricter regularity was evident both for preserving harmony and securing our property.

28 Decr.

We had a present of two Hogs & some Bread fruit sent us by young Otoo from Oppare with a message that he would pay us a visit in a few days, his Father Otoo the former King was at Emeio Island from whence they thought he would hardly be persuaded to come unless one of our Boats went for his conveyance: We remonstrated with the Messenger of the Young King of the unfair behaviour of the Natives: It was evident that his feeling suffered from what he

considered as a breach of Hospitality in his Countrymen, but was candid enough to inform us of the inefficacy of any authority to restrain the clandestine trade; he said that while a number were suffered to come on board, the greatest part of them would take every opportunity of pilfering what they could, to prevent it rested wholly with us by allowing none or only a few which

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which we took upon ourselves to confide in to come into the Vessel; this advice being entirely in unison with the plan we meant to pursue from past experience, it was now determined to put it closely in force which the Natives obeyed without shewing the least sign of displeasure, but met with as if they had be taught to expect it as a matter of course: Order being thus restored tranquility succeeded not did it afterwards meet with the least interruption.

29th Decr.

In the Evening I accompanied Mr. Broughton on Shore for the first time; Several of the Indians met us and most friendly assisted our getting out of the Boat, one in particular whose name we afterwards found to be Tapaire was the most officious, he conducted us to his house which was on the opposite side of the River and gave us every reason to be pleased with the reception we found and was anxious that we should remain with him all night, but as the boat waited at the point we declined his pressing entreaty and returned on board.

30 Decr.

Young Otoo from Oppare with a great many of the Natives was now waiting to pay his visit for by their custom they said he could not be permitted to come on board any Vessel: Capt. Vancouver landed and making the young King some presents he returned to Oppare, he appeared a Youth of about 11 Years of Age of a princely deportment, but was not suffered to touch the ground, but was constantly in our Sight borne upon a Man's Shoulders or when sitting in his lap; they said he could not

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not enter any home but his own that was allotted for him, if he did it would occasion the home to be burnt immediately after he had quitted it.

31 Decr.

Abundance of Hogs were brought along side: No Salt being produced here and having not great quantity of it on board, but little pork was cured. The large Wood Axe and Red Cloth were the most valuable Articles of our traffic, but most of the common Sized Hogs a pair of Scissars was the price and sometimes a Knife was added. Fowls were pretty plenty, the price for one was generally a bead or two. Bread fruit and Coca Nuts were also plenty and Cheap, as were plantains, but the Tarrow was rather scarce and the Yams & sweet Potatoes were seldom seen. Lieut. Mudge & Mr. Menzies sett off in the Discovery's pinnace to Emio to visit old Otoo and invite him to join us at Matavia.

Jany. 2

The pinnace returned this Morning with Otoo who was now called Pomarri he had taken this name on going to Emeio and resigning the government to his Son whom we had seen. This abdication seemed very strange to us considering Pomarri could not be past 40 Years of Age and possessing his full vigour of Body & Mind and his Son but still in tender Age. The Step appears either to have been consistent with their mode of succession or voluntary on the part of the Father with the approbation of his family and Subjects, for Pomarri and all his Relations that we saw attended the Young King with all that respect & obaisence, which are so profusely bestowed on the Regal persons in this Country.

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Chatham Brig
Matavia Bay, Otaheite

Jany. 5. 1792

The Swell was so great and had raised so high a surge on the Shore that none of the Canoes were able to come off, but this did not prevent some of the Natives from swimming to the Vessels, and our Friends had an opportunity of shewing their attachment by encountering the billows & bringing us Cocoa Nuts, Bread fruit & other refreshments.

Jany. 6.

Pomarri & his two Brothers Oripia & Wytooa were now our daily guests having taken up their residence in temporary dwellings near the Huts: We had occasional visits from Otoo the King who resided at Opparre, but the restriction attending his Rank did not permit his entering any of the Tents or coming on board: We took Notice that the Natives all uncovered their Shoulders in the presence of the young King, nor did his nearest Relations omit the same ceremony.

Jany. 9.

As Fire wood was wanted for our further consumption, we applied to Pomarri for a supply of that Article who immediately ordered some of the bread fruit trees to be cut down and brought to the Tents, for this Office we supplied them with some Wood Axes, as they were unwilling to use their own in that Service; that implement of all others which we had being the most estimated. Most of our barter for Hogs and Refreshments were now carried on in the way of making presents which upon the whole was little else than the mode of fair buying & selling as the returns were usually made agreeable to the moderate price of a Hatchet for two Hogs; Fowls & Vegetables were answered with the smaller commodities such as Scissars, Knives & Beads; In this easy manner our tables were amply supplied, the only extravagance we were subject to was in Wine and Spirits, Pomarri and more particularly his two Brothers being excessively fond of both; Wytooa

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Wytooa the younger was looked upon by the Sailors as (what they called) a hearty Soul, his morning beverage when he could get it, was seldom less than a pint of the strongest Brandy, which he was never long in finishing: Nor was the propensity to the immoderate use of Spiritous Liquors only confined to the Males of the Royal family, the two wives of Pomarri, one of them Mother of the Young King partook of it with almost equal prodigality: These two ladies seemed to be under very little restriction respecting their diet; whatever they may have been formerly no restraint was apparent now. They almost dined with us daily and without the least ceremony partook of Pork or Fowls and what else the Table afforded: They were indeed the only two women that we observed that could so publicly indulge their appetites: All our other Female Friends who were not born Erees tho' they might be married to Chiefs would seldom taste any kind of Flesh and when they did it, it was always secretly, Oripia's Wife being an Eree by birth eat pork, but the Wife of Wytooa being born without the distinction of Rank tho' married to the King's brother was not allowed that priviledge.

Jany. 10

Madooara, the King of Emio (who was Father to Pomarri's two Wives, Pomarri having married two Sisters) did us also the favor of his Company along with the other Royal Guests who came up in the pinnace; he was in a very bad state of health when he arrived and had daily got worse: In the Evening his fancy led him to wish for a Night's Repose on board the Chatham: he was so feeble as to be totally incapable of the use of his faculties, he rested upon the Quarter Deck which was spread with the Country Cloth, whilst Pomarri and his youngest Wife Toomo attended him with the most assiduous & filial care: They slept by him all Night and in the Morning they were again landed without

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without the dying King seeming to have received any Relief from the change.

Jany 13.

Hitherto all our little excursions had been confined to the shaded plains of Matavia but this Afternoon we put ourselves under the Care of Wytooa, Pomarri's second brother and in his Canoe proceeded down to Oppare, the residence of our Royal Conductor being situated in the eastern part of that district; our passage thither was made in about three hours: In the close of the Evening we were joined by Pomarri and Oripia attending the Corps[e] of the deceased Madooara; before their arrival we were apprized of his death by the salute of some Guns from the Discovery and the Artillery on Shore: The Body was brought down in a Canoe (which was covered with a piece of Scarlet Cloth that they had got from us) where it remained all Night – the Canoe being moored to the Shore: amongst the Attendants on this occasion were the two wives of Pomarri, the daughters of the deceased King, they were the only females we saw who seemed to take any part in the Mourning, tho' they did not mix in any part of the public Ceremony, but in a lonely spot by the beach, where we found them venting their sorrow by the use of a Sharks tooth with which they pierced their heads, 'til the blood followed the lacerating instrument: We spent an agreeable Evening made pleasant by the hospitality of our Royal Host and in the course of conversation learnt from Oripia that Pomarri and himself felt much concern that the Encampment at Matavia should be left without the attendance of any of the three Brothers, as they looked upon the presence of one or other to be necessary for restraining the pilfering disposition of their Countrymen, but to amend this inconvenience as far as possible, that we would write in favor of four Men who were named and who

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who were to be the bearers of the Note, recommending them to the confidence of Capt. Vancouver and who would be vigilant for our interest until the return of one of the three; so fair an offer could not be rejected tho' we did not conceive that in their absence any more caution was needful than what was at all times observed in keeping a strict and diligent watch with our own Centinels.

Jany. 14.

The Weather was very favorable in the Morning when we observed a great concourse of the Natives resorting to the Kings Morai and thither we joined the Ceremony which was conducted by Six Priests who in the midst of a very large gathering of the people were chanting Hymns and offering Orisons to their deity whilst the body of the dead King in a Canoe under the Cover of a piece of Scarlet Cloth was moved to the Shore – neither Pomarri nor his two Brothers appeared to take any part in the ceremony more than any of the other spectators, but Otoo the young King seemed to represent one of the most principal Characters in the formal rite, he was seated in a Man's lap opposite the priests and to him were most of their Orisons and prayers directed; when the funeral ordinance was over which lasted about three hours, the Canoe with the dead

body was conducted up the River a little way, where after being embowel'd , they said it was to be interred; our desire of being witness of this last ceremony made us request that permission of Pomarri, but we could easily perceive how much our request embarrassed that affable prince, sensible as he was that our Company could not be admitted to the secrecy of this performance and fearing least we should impute the refusal to want of courtesy, the frankness of his disposition in this instance suffer'd from his urbanity of manners whilst trying in several ways to divert us from the intention of attending the Corps[e].

[incomplete]

[Transcribed by Jacqueline Lamprecht for the State Library of New South Wales]