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LETTERS

TO

THE SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE
PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL.



LETTER 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 letters, that I might have time to verify my first impressions by more extended observation. I have now been two months in New Zealand, and from the first day of my landing until now, have seen, day after day, more and more reason to be thankful, on the part of the Church, for the establishment of the Bishopric of this colony, and for myself, that I am allowed to share in so great and hopeful a work. I find myself placed in a position such as was never granted to any English Bishop

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before, with a power to mould the institutions of the Church from the beginning according to true principles; and I earnestly desire the prayers of the Church at home, that I may be enabled clearly to discern that truth, and consistently to follow it.

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. Auckland now contains a population of 1,900 persons, of whom more than 1,100 are registered as members of the Church of England. The Rev. J. F. Churton, late Chaplain at Wellington, has officiated here during the last year and a half. A brick church, in the early English style, which will contain about six hundred persons, is in progress; but from the great cost of materials and labour, the funds are at present inadequate for its completion. It is well placed on a commanding eminence in the centre of the town, and will form a striking object from the harbour. At present Divine Service is performed, by permission of the Governor, in the court-house; where a very respectable congregation is assembled every Sunday. Mr. Churton also performs Divine Service at the barracks, and at the prison. He receives 200*l.* per annum from the Government, to which I have added 100*l.* per annum from the annual grant voted to me by the Society for stipends of clergymen. He has built a house for himself on an allotment which he purchased for that purpose.

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AUCKLAND.

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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," allotting, at the same time, two similar plots to be divided among the other denominations of Christians. Our burial-grounds are about half a mile from the centre of the town, on the sides of two of the ridges which slope down gradually to the harbour, and conveniently situated at corresponding distances from the two churches. The first ground was consecrated on Sunday last, on which occasion I was assisted by the Rev. J. F. Churton, Rev. R. Cole, (whom I propose to place at Wellington,) and Rev. R. Maunsell (one of the Missionaries of the Church Missionary Society). Divine Service was performed in the church-tent presented to me by Mr. Cotton, which is completely fitted with communion-table and desks, and will contain three hundred persons. This will be of great use to me at Nelson and Wellington, where there are at present no places appropriated to public worship. In the event of the population of Auckland rapidly increasing, this burial-ground will form a beautiful site for another church. In the meantime, I intend to avail myself of the natural beauties of the spot to give it such a character as will accord with the reverential feelings with which it will be visited by the friends and relatives of the dead who are there interred.

The church now in progress is called the church of St. Paul; on the central one of the three ridges

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on which the town will stand. I have obtained another excellent site on the western ridge, on which I intend, as soon as possible, to build a wooden chapel, and to lay the foundations of a church on a grand scale, to be proceeded with gradually as funds can be obtained. On the third, *i. e.* the eastern ridge, nearest to the mouth of the harbour, and on high ground commanding a view of the whole frith of the Thames, I have given directions for the purchase of twenty or thirty acres of land for a site for the cathedral, and for a cathedral close. By this arrangement I may hope to secure a future provision for every possible increase of population, as sites will be prepared for three churches in the main parts of the town; and when the houses extend half a mile into the country, the two burial-grounds will meet the wants of the people, by additions to the chapels which I intend to build upon them for the funeral services.

I have obtained permission to select and purchase sites for parsonage-houses, contiguous to the churches and burial-grounds, which I shall endeavour to let upon building leases, reserving one central piece of ground sufficient for the residence of all the clergy of the town, who may find it more desirable for some years to come to live upon a collegiate plan, than to incur the expense of so many separate establishments.

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

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settlements, where villages are beginning to be formed. From one of these, Windsor, distant four miles from Auckland, I have already received an Address expressive of the desire of the inhabitants for a church and clergyman, and their willingness to contribute.

I am now (July 29, 1842,) off the harbour of Auckland, in the government brig Victoria, bound to Wellington and Nelson. On board with me are Rev. R. Cole, for Wellington, Rev. C. L. Reay, Church Missionary for the south-western district, and Mr. Evans, as my travelling companion. Mr. Whytehead having been advised to pass the winter at Sydney, I was obliged to leave Mr. Cotton with Mrs. Selwyn at the Waimate.

At Wellington everything will have to be begun. There appears to be neither school nor chapel connected with the Church, nor provision for either. Mr. Cole will, I think, prove well qualified for the position for which he is designed. On board the Tomatin I appointed him chaplain to the intermediate and steerage passengers, to whom his ministrations were most beneficial, and I was very thankful to see nine out of the thirteen come to the Lord's table on Easter Sunday.

One of my first public acts has been the appointment of the Rev. W. Williams to be Archdeacon of the Eastern District. In taking this step, I have acted upon the strongest recommendation of the Bishop of Australia, confirmed by personal intercourse with him at the Bay of Islands. Archdeacon

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Williams is a man universally beloved, and one who, during twenty years of residence in a savage country, has lost nothing of that high tone of feeling which distinguishes the best class of English Clergymen. He will act also as one of my examining chaplains, especially for the native language; for I find the natives so interspersed among the English that I must require every Clergyman to make himself acquainted with their language. My excellent friend, Mr. Whytehead, will act as my other examining chaplain; and never, I am sure, was any Colonial Bishop better supplied with confidential advisers.

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. I have now been waiting three weeks at Auckland for a passage to Wellington. The Bishop of Australia, at Sydney, is in a better position for communicating with Wellington and Nelson than I when I am at Auckland. New Plymouth is a perfect "terra incognita." However, my plans are now so laid, that, God willing, I hope to have seen every settlement, and every Clergyman and Catechist in the country, before the end of the year. But to secure the efficient administration of the Church in all parts of the diocese, each great division of the country must have its responsible head, capable of acting with authority without constant reference to me. I intend, ultimately, to arrange the diocese into four archdeaconries for the northern island, and one or more for the southern;

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the first to include the northern part of the north island, to the isthmus on which Auckland is built. The centre of the island to be cut in two by a line running north and south. The eastern portion now forms the archdeaconry of Mr. Williams. The Company's territory, with the settlements of Wellington and New Plymouth, will form the fourth archdeaconry; and a fifth must be located at Nelson, for the care of the northern part of the middle island.

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. The buildings for this purpose are already to be had at the Waimate, and my young Catechists will, I hope, be useful assistants. I have hopes of a married gentleman from England to take charge of the school; but if this should fail, I must conduct it by the assistance of my chaplains, till I can procure a head master. It will be in connexion with a small collegiate institution for candidates for Holy Orders, to be under the care of Mr. Whythead, upon the plan of King's College, London, and its tributary schools.

With my grateful remembrances to all my friends in the Committee, and with earnest prayer for the success of your endeavours,

I am yours, most faithfully,

G. A. NEW ZEALAND.

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POPULATION.

To the Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

LETTER II.

MY DEAR SIR, At Sea, off Kapiti,
November 3, 1842.

I HAVE now completed my first visit to the different English settlements in New Zealand, viz. Kororarika, Auckland, Wellington, Nelson, and New Plymouth: other smaller settlements are springing up in the following places; Whanganui, Petoni (Port Nicholson), Hokianga, and Windsor (near Auckland).

The population of these settlements is about as follows: *—

Auckland	1800
Wellington	2500
Nelson (Blind Bay)	2100
New Plymouth (Taranaki)	900
Kororarika (Bay of Islands)	300
Petoni (Port Nicholson)	700
Whanganui (West Coast, South)	100
Hokianga (West Coast, North)	100
Windsor (near Auckland)	100
Total	8600

From the nature of the country of New Zealand, the population is likely to be divided into a number

* This calculation does not include 1,000 Europeans supposed to be living in the outlying settlements.

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of villages ; a distribution likely to be favourable to morality, but adding to the difficulty of providing the people with adequate pastoral superintendence. At the same time, I find in all the settlements a very considerable willingness on the part of the inhabitants to bear their part in the maintenance of ministers, and hope, therefore, to be enabled, by the assistance of the Society, to go on from year to year endowing the church in perpetuity in the new settlements as fast as they arise. Of course, at first, the glebe lands will yield little or nothing ; and I shall be obliged to divide the sum which the Society may be enabled to allow me for annual salaries of Clergymen among the ministers, who may be expected to increase in number, and, therefore, must gradually become less and less dependent upon the allowance of the Society. This diminution of their dividend of the Society's grant, may be met by the increase of the Local Church Fund, arising from the rental of lands, and the contributions of the congregations.

In all the settlements where there is a bank, I have opened an account, styled

Archdeaconry of Auckland	}	Church Fund,
,, Wellington		
,, Nelson		

to receive private contributions, and collections made at the offertory by the whole congregation, every time the Lord's Supper is administered. I have begun this practice at Auckland, Wellington, and Nelson, and have requested the Clergymen at those places to

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continue it. The fund thus formed, I propose to vest uniformly in five trustees; the Bishop, the Archdeacon of the district, the senior Minister, and two laymen, one selected by the Bishop, and one by the Archdeacon: the proceeds of the fund to be applicable to the building and endowment of churches, schools, parsonage-houses, and to the payment, in part, of salaries of Clergymen. I hope to bring all dues, such as surplice fees, Easter offerings, &c. into this fund, that they may be looked upon as the dues of the Church, and not as gratuities to particular Clergymen for services performed.

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. This object I hope to accomplish with no other expense to the Society than an allowance for outfit and passage, similar to that already granted to the three young students who accompanied me from England. It has pleased God to deprive me of the assistance of one of them, Mr. Evans, who