

“Fourth Annual Report of the Aboriginal Mission at Lake Macquarie New South Wales.”

“November 7th 1834
Ebenezer Lake Macquarie.

“To the Honorable
The Colonial Secretary
Alex^r M’cleay Esquire &c. &c. &c.”
Sir

Agreeably to instructions received from the Venerable the Arch Deacon previous to his departure for England. I have used every exertion to complete the grammar of the Australian Language now in the press and composed to the last sheet, which it is presumed will be finally accomplished, on my part, in the course of the present month.

I have then to rewrite, the Gospel of St Luke, together with a Selection of prayers by the Arch-Deacon from the Ritual of the Church of England for the introduction of Public worship among the natives to accord with the Orthography now finally adopted. I have also to compose such elementary works as may be found necessary to instruct the Aborigines to read their own language. —

During the past year, I have, as opportunity offered, read portions of the Gospel of Luke and the selection of prayers to small parties of the natives, sometimes in the open air, sometimes in my Barn, But inconveniences arose and interruptions occurred which can be only obviated by erecting a small building suitable for such purposes, a plan and estimate of which I attach and submit to His Excellency’s consideration.

Hitherto I have supported such natives as were necessary to converse with and refer to, in composing the Grammar, and have furnished boats to the Blacks for their use and encouragement to assemble and dwell around us. These boats are now unserviceable in consequence of which the natives do not so frequently visit us:

I have therefore to request that His Excellency will be pleased to take into consideration the necessity of providing a suitable boat for the use of the Mission, an estimate of which is attached.

It appears also desirable to afford some protection from the violence of neighboring tribes, a circumstance having recently occurred which may yet be attended with most serious consequences both to Europeans and to the Aborigines themselves [see p. 255]:

Two young men who for months past have been supported at this establishment, for the purpose before mentioned, were attacked by a party of Blacks consisting of about 30 males collected from Sydney, Brisbane water, and the neighboring parts; The two with a female the wife of one of the two, came up to our dwelling house, when the tribe immediately plundered our huts, threw their spears, which nearly wounded two of our servants and fell

in the yard where my wife and children were standing. After challenging my Son to fire they succeeded in carrying off provisions, blankets, and clothing, to a considerable amount.

I was called to attend a relative who appeared in a dying state during which the daring and unprovoked assault was made. I feel it my duty to state the impression of my mind for His Excellency’s consideration; that there exists a great probability of the coalition of Bushrangers with the Blacks, being informed that there are Europeans, termed Squatters, in the vicinity of this Lake who receive the produce and have encouraged the Aborigines in their several predatory expeditions during the present year, and I further submit the propriety of offering to the Blacks a sure and certain reward for the capture of Bushrangers, the discovery of their haunts, or of the receivers of Stolen property,

nor will it be deemed, I trust irrelative [sic] to this subject, the intimation that there exists no law of evidence by which the Aborigines can be received as witnesses in a court of Justice. I am made acquainted with a robbery of property by convicts, wherein the Blacks alone are witnesses, and consequently no legal measures could be taken.

It is gratifying to be enabled to state that the period is now at hand in which, I trust, I shall be enabled to commence the instruction of the natives in a regular manner: But another consideration arises in consequence thereof namely: Those aborigines who may be persuaded to attend a school will be deprived of the time usually occupied in obtaining food, and it will then become necessary to consider how they are to be provided for during such attendance, and should my expectation be realized of procuring some Aboriginal Youths from Liverpool Plains through the agency of my Son, who speaks fluently the native tongue, in the course of the ensuing year, it may ultimately become exceedingly advantageous in operating on, and influencing the minds of the natives, and is intimately connected with the above consideration.

Such have been my past pursuits, are my present plans, and future designs, in accordance with my report last year to the Venerable the Arch Deacon, and his wishes in endeavouring to prepare the way in the wilderness for the Aborigines to lift up their hands unto God.

Sincerely desiring that His Excellency the Governor, the Venerable the Arch Deacon in his absence, and His Majesty’s Government at home, may be pleased with what is already attained and that God Almighty may bless this and every effort to promulgate the Gospel of Peace amongst the Heathen.”

I have the Honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obt and Humb^l. Ser^t
Lancelot Edward Threlkeld”