

years been pleading with the C.M.S. to allow him to go to New Zealand, was given the privilege of escorting them to Madeley. They made the journey about the end of May and Hall remained with them till they returned to London in October. (His wish to go to New Zealand was subsequently fulfilled when he sailed with the Reverend John Butler, James Kemp, Tuai and Titeri in January 1819.) Before their arrival in Shropshire the Reverend George Mortimer expressed delight at the prospect of entertaining the young New Zealanders in his home and forthwith set about making plans for the profitable employment of their stay with him. A study of the iron smelting process at the local works was high on his list – ‘Mr Kendall & Mr Nicholas both seem convinced that they have iron & if so it wd. if worked contribute very materially towds. their civilization.’ The young men proved to be properly impressed by both iron and china works, exclaiming “Dearee me dearee me – New Zealand man no believe”. They also delighted in the exercise of their manual skills, showed proper respect for the Sabbath, performed private devotions and endeavoured to instruct Hall in their own language. They reported however that there were at least seven or eight different dialects spoken in New Zealand, most of which they could not understand. Titeri won special praise for his rejection of the advances of a beautiful and accomplished but immodest young lady who pursued him into his bedroom, and Tuai was admired for the tales of his own heroic exploits with which he regaled his hosts.

Mortimer repeatedly sang their praises and Hall wrote enthusiastically of ‘the agreeable manner of these interesting young men, so far superior to what might be expected of them’. Nevertheless, despite their many virtues, Tuai and Titeri gave some cause for anxiety and disappointment. Titeri suffered repeatedly from a ‘complaint in his bowels’ which at one time was so serious as to cause fear for his life. A spiritual defect however proved more intractable than this physical one. Though they liked to go to church and say their prayers they were uninterested in spiritual instruction, and when religious topics were introduced they tended to change the conversation. Hall was not without hope that the Holy Spirit would in the end prevail, but when it came to intellectual effort he was forced to admit defeat. As Mortimer reported on 13 June, despite every effort and inducement – even the promise of a workshop for their own use as a reward for regular study – they could not be persuaded to interest themselves in learning ‘ay b, ab – & b, a, ba’, thereby acquiring the art of literacy. On 26 June Hall wrote: ‘They are contented and happy, and all goes well till they are brought to abc: They do not like their book, notwithstanding the good advice they have received from various persons in this respect; they come to it with reluctance, and soon weary, and leave it with