

Jeremiah Purcell O'Reily

Cape of Good Hope 18 Nov 1842

[Trove AJCP CO 209 File 19 Individuals Image 280](#)

My Lord,

Being on my journey to the Colony of New Zealand, as a Priest of the Catholic Church, whose ministry has been sought for by the many Catholics of British connexion residing in those distant climes and widely scattered apart from each other, in such capacity I humbly beg to lay claim to the maximum of the honorary stipend generously allowed to the British Government to the Teachers of the Catholic religion in her colonies.

I am compelled to so do, by reason of the inadequacy of support afforded by settlers in the infancy of a colony, and by the expenses that of necessity must entail upon me, on account of the long journeys that I shall be bound to take, with a view to meeting British subjects, many of whom reside at Auckland and other distant parts of this vast island, besides I will have to follow the migrating steps of the untutored savages, for these too shall be a _ portion of my flock.

I should imagine that I cannot appeal to your Lordship through the usual channel (the Catholic Bishop) for He, being a churchman (Dr Pompallier) probably such a way may not meet with the approbation of Government: But if the substance of my claim be allowed then your Lordship can easily through the Governor of New Zealand ascertain whether I be the person I represent myself. As a matter of course I act in unison with Dr Pompallier whose subject in all spiritual matters I am, and of this the Governor can easily inform your Lordship.

I should in conclusion deem it not unjust to hope that your Lordship would order the Governor to allot us a few plots of ground for the erection of Temples to the Most High for I am sure that it is in accordance with your Lordship's enlightened philanthropy, as it is, most assuredly with the will of God, that the earth should be replenished and subdued, that the desert should give place to the fruitful field, the frantic war cry to the hymn of praise, and the frightful depository of the unburied _ to the Country steeple and the Village school, and that civilization and glorious Christianity, with their beneficent trains, should radiate even from New Zealand as from a moral _.

P.S.

In my hurry from Ireland to these benighted shores I never once thought of addressing a word on the subject of the present letter to your Lordship, but our ship having met with an accident and a consequent delay following, gave me leisure to think on this I hope not unjust application to the Mother Country. I was moreover reminded of it by my finances being reduced so low as about 30_ Any letter coming from your Lordship will reach me at Wellington, New Zealand. Our British Catholics number at the least from three to five hundred.
