

Rev. W. Floyd ————— 10 May 1876 <sup>340</sup>

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1876

Levuka, Fiji  
May 10<sup>th</sup> 1876

Dear Sir

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Church in

Your letter to me about Church matters in Fiji reached me when I was in Australia the end of last year. I will reply to it as soon as I can gain from the best source the information required to guide the S. P. G. in their intentions toward the Church in Fiji. At present I cannot say much to encourage. Our white population within the last 3 years has sadly diminished—the islanders are very poor and the Church receives no help whatever from the State. The Governor, Sir A. H. Gordon, helps us privately and will continue to do so but says he will not give the slightest assistance or encouragement to the S. P. G. in their scheme for sending a Bishop to these islands. He thinks that the visits of a neighbouring Bishop, or, Bishops, would be quite sufficient for the present requirements of the Church in the group. I have written to Mr. Codrington of the Melanesian Mission requesting either himself or one of his staff to come here and judge as to what our wants are, and report to you accordingly.

I may say without hesitation that the stipends of the two white clergymen here are utterly insufficient and that we cannot contribute one fraction towards the increase of our clerical staff.

I forward to you by this mail a copy of the Fiji Times containing our Church Report for last year.

Thanking you for your interest in our welfare  
I remain, dear Sir

Yours faithfully  
William Floyd

Priest of the Church in Fiji

The Rev. W. D. Bullock

S. P. G.