

him in the midst of his people, who were all at work preparing the Land for planting. Thunghee received us with great politeness. I observed his head wife at work with a spatula, and her little daughter between four and five years old, sitting on the bed, which her mother was digging. I knew the age of this little girl, for she was born at Thunghee Hippah, about 30 Miles from Ranghee Hoo, the very night I slept there, when first at New Zealand. Thunghee's wife reminded me of this Circumstance, and said she had called the Child Marsden, from my being with them at the birth. This Woman is about 35 years old, & is quite blind. She lost her sight from an inflammation in her eyes, about 3 years ago. She appeared to dig the Ground, as fast as those who had their sight, and as well. She first pulled up the weeds with her hands, as she went on, then set her feet upon them, that she might know where they were: afterwards dug up the Ground, and covered the weeds with the mold, with her hands. I told her if she would give me the Kahedu or Spatula we would give her an Hoe. The offer was immediately accepted with joy, and her daughter was sent immediately with the Spatula along with the Rev. Mr. Butler for the promised Hoe. When we viewed the Head wife of one of the greatest Chiefs in New Zealand, a man possessor of a very large, and extensive territory of rich land, and one whose name as a Soldier, strikes terror into all the inhabitants from the north to the east Cape, labouring hard, though completely blind, with a wooden spade to gain a scanty subsistence upon Potatoes; this sight naturally excited in our breasts new sensations, and reflections which created both pleasure and pain, and kindled within us, the best feelings of the human heart. We most ardently wished, that the Christian World could see this sight, with all the surrounding scene. The means would then soon be raised, to furnish every blind Woman, whether of high or low rank, with an Hoe, or Spade, who were willing to labour for their bread, as well as to afford general relief to all that are in distress for these necessary instruments. We have found in every district we have visited, the body of the inhabitants industrious as far as their means extended; but their industry is universally checked, for want of tools of Agriculture. We need adduce no other proof of their habits of industry than the above. If a woman of the first rank, and at the same time blind, can, from habit, labour in the field, with her Servants and Children; what will not these People rise to, if they can