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prisoners of war. He went on his expedition previous to
Shunghee, but they never met on any part of the Coast.
Shunghee had two objects in view, the one was, to revenge the
murder of the Woman belonging to his tribe, which had been taken
away by the Venus, as already stated: The other to assist
Koupas party, a Chief at the river Thames, to revenge three
murders, which had been committed on their Tribe several
years before. Koupas had long solicited Shunghee to aid
him, to punish the Tribe who had cut off his people. Shunghee
left the Bay of Islands on the 7th Feb 1818 with his fighting
Men, to join Koupas at the River Thames. When they sailed
from the river Thames, their forces amounted to 800 Men.
On their arrival at the districts where they intended to
make war, such of the natives as were able, fled into
the interior leaving their Habitations. Shunghee says they
burnt 500 Villages. The inhabitants are very numerous on
the Coast, between the River Thames, and the East Cape:
many of them were taken by surprise, and had not time
to muster, and therefore were compelled to fly for safety
to the Country, as Shunghee advanced. A number of Chiefs
were killed, either by surprise, or in defending their Towns
and People, and many of their Heads brought away by the
conquering party. The settlers informed me, that about 70
Heads arrived at Ranges Roo, in one canoe. They also took
2000 Prisoners of War which they brought back with them
as their spoils, consisting of men, women, and children.
These prisoners were shared amongst the Chiefs, and their
Officers, and made slaves of. I was anxious to know,
whether or not they eat those slain in battle, and therefore
requested Shunghee and Temmarangha to inform me,
how they acted in the field, when the Enemy met them:
and also if they eat their Enemies when killed. In
answer to my request, they gave me the following
account: and said, when a Chief of the Enemy's party
is killed, his body is immediately demanded by the
assailants, and if the party attacked are intimidated,
it is immediately delivered up. If the Chief was a
married man, his wife is then called for, and she is
also delivered into the hands of the Enemy. She is taken
along with the dead body of her husband and killed.
If she loved her husband, she voluntarily resigns
herself up, and her children, and desires the victors,
to do to her, and her children, as they had done to her