

Dec 28/13

22 Mr Hall and Mr King with me to New Zealand. They say they will accompany me in the first ship. There appears to be now a fair opening for us at New Zealand. The Natives are very industrious and desirous to learn the European Arts. They solicit instruction. I have seen one of them and his countenance and conversation were very interesting. The people of England through a natural bias in favour of their own Countrymen can dwell upon the cruelties and savage habits of the People of New Zealand. But the time is now arrived when they must hear of the cruelties of Men who bear the Christian name amongst those ^{very} Savages, and this by official documents supported and established by respectable witnesses. We heard in England of the Massacre of Captain Thompson of the *Boyle* and his men with horror. I am not going to plead in favour of a Law which does not discriminate the innocent from the guilty. Yet we were not at that time told the whole of the Truth. Previous to this fatal catastrophe some of our Countrymen had been committing great depredations at New Zealand. The tops of the growing potatoes had been pulled up. The Stores had been broken open by force and the Potatoes which the natives greatly valued and wanted, and which they had preserved with great care for their own support until the next potatoe season had been violently taken away. This conduct added to the cruel behaviour of Captain Thompson in flogging a young Chief whom he had on Board, taking from him the Property which he possessed and had procured at Port Jackson, and sending him naked on shore, led to the destruction of the *Boyle*. Another