

engagement of a more dreadful nature ensued. Some of our South Sea Whalers by way of retaliation united in destroying the inhabitants and habitations of a whole district. They neither spared men, women, nor children. One would have thought that Englishmen would have been more sparing in their resentment, and would at least have permitted the women and children to live. But they did not. They were at too great a distance from Great Britain! They were also mistaken with respect to the objects of their fury, and they actually destroyed an innocent and an unoffending people who had nothing to do with the Boyde. In this carnage our friend the enlightened Tippahes was slain. This was the chief of whom Mr Marsden has written to the Society with so much pleasure. Family Quatterra is still living, and if it should please God to spare me with life, I hope I shall shortly be enabled to transmit you some interesting accounts of these people from my own observation. I am persuaded in my own mind, in the mean time, that when the documents which Mr Marsden has in his possession shall be made public in England the Characters of the South Sea Islanders will appear in a better light, and that their good opinion and good offices may be obtained by persons who visit them, provided they treat them with common civility and common honesty. The way is therefore plain before us. I pray that God may give to me and my companions Faith to rely upon his promises, and excite in our hearts by His Holy Spirit a tender compassion for the Souls of our perishing fellow creatures, so that God our Saviour