

Sydney }  
W. G. Wallis }

(Copy)

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May 17/14

Com. Nov. 14/14

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## Declaration of William Burnett

Sailed from this port the 17<sup>th</sup> October 1809 in the Mary Capt<sup>n</sup> Simmons belonging to Mr Bennett of London. We arrived at the Bay of Islands in the New Zealand in about three weeks. The Mercury Schooner Theodore Walker Master, & the Inspector Capt<sup>n</sup> John Walker went in company with us part of the voyage but arrived at the Bay of Islands before us where we found them. A vessel called the New Zealand Capt<sup>n</sup> Elder was also at the Bay of Islands where she had been fitting out.

Capt<sup>n</sup> Elder told us the natives had been very friendly to him & had rendered him every assistance in fitting out his vessel. The Mary & the Inspector also reported the same of the behaviour of the natives.

3<sup>rd</sup> May 17/14

Between the 10<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> of  
November the Mary & the Inspector  
got under weigh. As they were  
passing Tippahis Territories  
Theodore Walker master of the  
Mercury came on board the Mary  
& endeavoured to persuade Capt<sup>n</sup>  
Simmons to send a Boat & Crew  
to assist him in taking Potatoes  
as the Natives would sell them  
none. The only Potatoes in  
the Country were growing &  
were too young to dig. Capt<sup>n</sup>  
Simmons therefore said he would  
have nothing to do with it, as  
it might endanger other Ships,  
& himself likewise, as he expected  
to return for refreshments. Walker  
then went ashore in his own Boat.

The Mary having foundered  
at Sea went on board the New  
Zealandor Capt<sup>n</sup> Elder which  
did return to the Bay of Islands.  
The Natives informed us that Walker  
went ashore & took the largest

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of the young potatoes on board  
his vessel.

Capt<sup>n</sup> Guinness & Capt<sup>n</sup> John  
Walker of the ~~Governor Macquarie~~<sup>Inspector</sup>  
both declared they would protest  
against Walker's conduct towards  
the Natives. I also mentioned  
Walker's conduct to Mr & Mrs Mills  
the proprietors of the Mercury on  
my return to this Port.

At this time the Boyd Capt<sup>n</sup>  
Thomson was not captured.

J. Bennett

May 17. 1814

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Cincinnati  
of  
William Durrant