

53

6/6

It is recorded by authors on Geography that "few Vessels were left
the coasts of New Zealand without the loss of some part of their crews."
This is a serious charge, which I cannot however believe to be true.
When the New Zealanders are provoked by insult and ill treatment
they will undoubtedly retaliate with the utmost fury; but I
cannot learn that they have generally, if at any time been
the first aggressors. They have on the contrary in a variety of
cases which have been incorrectly stated in British Newspapers
suffered much from the tyranny and wanton abuse of those
who by reason of the name^a by which they are called ought
to be distinguished by their mild and humane dealing before
they ^{have} returned the fatal blow. It is known that Captain Thompson
had flogged (a) Tahrayha one of the chiefs now living at Whangaroa
previous to the destruction of the Boyde; and the Island of
the late Tappakee or Tappoonah had been laid waste, the houses
burnt with fire, and several men, women and children shot
before the natives killed some sailors belonging to a vessel
named the New Zealand. From the best information which I
have been able to obtain I cannot learn that Tappakee had
any share in the guilt attending the destruction of the Boyde.
altho' he has been charged as a confederate with the central
chiefs Tappoohee, Pepper and Tahrayha. The British Captains
who united in revenging the deaths of their countrymen appear
to have been misled by some natives who were the enemies
of Tappakee. It is asserted by respectable characters who have
visited him after the capture of the Boyde, & to whom he was
very kind, that Tappakee was a real friend to an European.

(a) Tahrayha was sick five days on board the Boyde at the end
of which he overheard Captain Thompson saying he would throw
him overboard. He was forced out of bed by flogging. It is said that when
his father met Captain Thompson on shore he killed him.