

71

of the greatest gifts of nature, these people can instruct I found  
 the natives kind and friendly, on every part of the Coast,  
 from the South Cape to the River, Thames, They likewise  
 manifested an ardent desire to cultivate an intercourse with  
 Europeans, And several of the Chiefs requested I would send  
 some to reside among them, Tho' I was persuaded that the New  
 Zealanders would be glad to have some Europeans to instruct them  
 in the Arts, and Agriculture, I am of opinion they would not  
 quietly submit to have any part of their Country wrested  
 from them by any other nation, but would resist to the utmost  
 of their power, any attempt of this nature, A Chief might be  
 induced to locate a certain part of his domain, for a valuable  
 consideration, provided he could do this legally in conformity to the  
 Custom of the Country, But whether he could or no, I am not  
 certain, The boundaries of their estates appear to be all accurately  
 ascertained by land marks, to show who is the proprietor, and  
 particularly on their fishing grounds, Tho' the natives of this place  
 were so very friendly to us, and shewed us every mark of attention,  
 Still I should recommend all masters of Vessels, to be extremely  
 cautious in entering into any other harbour than the Bay of Islands,  
 unless they can depend upon the good conduct of their Crew, The  
 New Zealanders will not be insulted with impunity, nor treated  
 as Men without understanding, In the Bay of Islands, I should  
 consider a Vessel to ride equally as safe as if in the harbours  
 of Port Jackson, unless the crew behaved extremely ill, as the  
 natives here would not take offence on any trifling occasion,  
 All the natural productions of the Islands, such as Timber, Flax  
 or any other articles that may hereafter be found valuable to

Commerce