

15 June 1815

of New South Wales soliciting his Aid to the object of the Society. This
 would have its weight should the Society in their wisdom think
 it prudent to make the Application - The Governor's Interest here
 would save much Expence in various ways; and by his kindly
 Interference many Difficulties would be removed, which never can be
 without it. I have endeavoured to bring to Justice several Masters of
 Vessels who have been guilty of great Crimes against the natives of
 the South Sea Islands, but have always failed. At the same time the
 very attempt to punish the guilty is not without good Effect
 as it must in the End find a remedy for the Evils. I beg to mention
 one or two Cases amongst many. A Whaler belonging to Port Jackson
 was lying in the Bay of Islands some time ago, and while there, the
 natives agreed with the master to sell a given Quantity of Potatoes
 for a given Quantity of oil. The oil was to be measured in a black
 quart tin Pot. After the Agreement was made, and the Pot had
 been shewn to the natives, the master had a piece of wood made
 to fit into the Pot, to take up Part of the Contents of the Pot. When
 the natives had delivered their Potatoes, and came to have their
 oil measured, they were astonished at the small Quantity that
 the Pot contained, till one of the natives discovered the Trick.
 The man who detected the Fraud, had been for some months
 on board the Whaler, during which time the vessel had
 put into Port Jackson; when the owners, gave him a
 Musket, for his services, as he had done the Duty of a
 common Sailor. When the master saw that his Fraud was found
 out, he striked this native naked, rope-ended him, took from
 him his musket, and sent him on Shore. When the Native
 returned from New Zealand the first time, the Chief of this
 nation came in her to U.S. vessels. As the master who had
 committed the Assault was then in the Harbour, the
 Chief applied to me to bring him to Justice - I accordingly
 applied to the Governor to request he would order an
 investigation into the Complaints which the natives had