

valuable a present as a nail unless her conduct had been improper. I was apprehensive that this unpleasant circumstance might be attended with serious consequences unless the Chiefs mind could be satisfied with respect to the chastity of his wife, I sent for Quattera and consulted with him, and it was agreed that the man who was said to have given Mr. Merrie the Nail should be sent for and if any improper act co. be proved against him he should be confined to the Vessel; a public investigation took place on the occasion in the presence of the Chiefs and many of the inhabitants upon the Beach where they danced and exercised. Mr. Merrie and the accused European were brought forward. She defended herself very warmly, but said she could not identify the man that had given her the nail, but that she had received it as a present. After a long examination she was acquitted by the unanimous voice of the chiefs, to the satisfaction of all parties, tho' I do not but entertain my suspicions of the lady's chastity from her hesitation to point out the person who had given her the nail. I took this opportunity to assure them, that if any person belonging to the active either insulted, or injured them they sho. be punished. After this business was closed Mr. & Mrs. Hall were landed and the remaining stores with them. On the following morning Friday the 13th Mr. & Mrs. King also were landed and the Vessel loaded and watered ready for sea. About 3 o'clock we weighed and sailed down the Harbour. Had Quattera and Coro-Coro with 25 New Zealanders more as a guard. These were very fine young men that co. be depended upon, many of them sons of the principal chiefs on both sides of the Harbour. It was my intention if the Wind permitted, first to sail for Whangoroo as we had been invited by several of the inhabitants who had come to Ranghee too since the people were established. At the same time I thought it prudent to take with me a sufficient number of men in case any difference should happen either at Whangoroo, the River Thames or any other part of the Coast where we might touch. When we got to sea the Wind was fair for Whangoroo towards which Harbour we directed our course, but when we came near