

Warriors who lived on the West side of New Zealand, and had brought them over land for the purpose of going to War with some of the Tribes at the East Cape. I felt a great desire to visit their camp, and view the Men who could undertake so arduous an enterprise with heavy canoes so far through a mountainous and uncleared country. Duaterra recommended me not to visit their camp as it was unsafe. I took it very kind of him, and followed his advice. The distance from it was about 3 Miles from our Anchorage. The New Zealanders are all cannibals; they did not appear to have any Idea, that this was an unnatural crime. When I expressed my abhorrence at their eating one another they said it had always been the custom to eat their enemies. I was unable to ascertain whether they ever ate human flesh as a meal, or from choice, or in cool blood, but it strikes me to be only from mental gratification and in retaliation for some great injury. As far as I can form an opinion of this horrid custom, I am inclined to believe, that the New Zealanders do not consider it any more crime to eat their enemies, than civilized Nations do to hang an offender, altho' at the same time it stamps as much public disgrace upon the surviving relatives as the public execution of a criminal in Europe reflects upon the Family of the sufferer. When I represented to them that this barbarous and inhuman custom was unknown to Europe, and a foul disgrace to their Nation, they seemed surprised; and Mungree, who is a Man of high authority told me, as I had informed him it was wrong he and his people wd. never be guilty of the like again, and others who stood by at the time expressed the same assurances. I took an opportunity upon all occasions that offered to impress upon their minds the horrors this practice excited in the Breasts of other Nations, and the dread and disgrace it attached to theirs. It may be proper for me also to remark that altho' we met with the most friendly reception throughout