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5 natives of New Zealand, merely as Papangers, such as the
Chiefs and their Servants, or any other, and several
other fees or Duties which is a great Drawback upon
what the Vessel brings. The Duty was one Shilling per
Solid Foot upon all Logs and Plank. The Timber I brought
with me sold for two Shillings and sixpence per foot.
so that the Duty was ~~two~~ two fifths of the whole
Cargo. I remonstrated with the Governor upon the
very heavy Duty, that it amounted to a Prohibition, tho the
timber was much wanted in the Colony, and no
Vessel could bring it on Account of the Duty yet I could
not prevail upon him to take it off. He refused
it however to sixpence which was gaining some
advantage. There is no vessel but the Active, that can
afford to bring any, and I think the Governor ought
to remit the whole of the Duty upon the Timber
there has been only one vessel that ever brought a
Cargo of Timber from N. Zealand: and the owner
told me, he had lost a very considerable sum, tho
he had sold the whole for 3. 6. per solid foot. The
Duty took more than one quarter of the Cargo, besides all
other Expenses of the Port. There is no view to gain in
the Active, not even the smallest Advantage, but merely
the good of the Fleet, and therefore the Government
ought not to lay such heavy Burthens upon the attempt.
The Governor told me if he remitted the Duty for me,
that others would expect the same Favor - at the same
time the Governor well knew that there was no
Vessel employed in that Service, but the Active
nor is there likely to be, as it will not pay for
Carriage ————— I mean where anyhope