

Memorandum of W. Hoell

Memorandums

On Sunday July the 11th Sailed the Active for Port Jackson having obtained a cargo of Spars Flax & c^a. The Chiefs Takoku, Pomarre and some other Natives embarked in her.

Sent by the Active Letters to M^r Pratt, M^r Woodd M^{rs} Quickfall, M^r Hunt, M^r Myers also M^r Pratt for M^r Woodd & d^o M^{rs} Quickfall, Curious Boxes to M^r Pratt &c &c.

A few days previous to the departure of the Brig Active died my aged and much respected friend Kangroha, I have to regard the loss of this chief who as I have before mentioned has been always our friend and possessed great influence amongst his countrymen. He was a man of great activity and industry and his loss will be very much felt amongst his countrymen on this account. I am sorry I had not an opportunity to pay him a visit during his illness. I am told his brother Shunghee was quite overwhelmed with sorrow. He attempted to hang himself twice but was providentially prevented.

Monday July 17. I paid a visit to my friends the natives of Tippoona. A woman had caught a violent cold which caused an inflammation in her eyes. Her face and neck was also very much swollen indeed and she was given up for lost. By the [f] application of blisters she has been restored to health.

Tuesday 18. A native came to me who was apparently in a deep decline. He also had caught a cold and had not taken care of himself. The Natives are not in the

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least aware of the causes of their diseases. They ascribe every thing to Atua that gives them pain. The deluded man said Atua was within him eating his vitals. He seemed not at all sensible of the evil consequences of drinking cold water when in a raging fever. I gave him such things to take as I thought most suitable. He has also been restored to health.

Friday 21st. I visited a Man whose name was Tihimode who as I was informed was near the point of death. He was Tabbood and attended by two priests and some other friends who notwithstanding the Tabboo let me have access to him. He appeared to be very much alarmed under the apprehension that the reptile God was within him & that he would soon die. I endeavoured to quiet his fears as well as I was able. I endeavoured to show the gross mistake he was under by imagining the Deity was within him. I told him that the great Atua was above. That all men had offended him, and he had said that all men must die. I then told him that altho [f] all men died yet the great Atua gave his Son Jesus Christ for us and those who believe that & pray to him their spirits would live and be happy. I do not think he could understand what I said being quite a new subject to him, but it is best to declare my errand as well as I can, trusting as I do, that the same gracious Saviour will either enable me or some one after me to speak concerning him in a clearer manner. I ordered some Sago and tea to be given to the sick person who had been without food three days, after taking of which he appeared a little revived.

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Saturday 22nd. As I was passing through the village I was requested by some natives to visit a boy about 13 or 14 years of Age who appeared to be in a consumption. He had caught a violent cold which had settled upon his Lungs. I ordered him to come down to my house and gave him some food and medicine. In a little time he recovered.

Sunday 23rd I and Mrs Kendall took a walk in the afternoon to see the people mourning over Tihimode who died early in the morning. The Corpse was placed and decorated as usual. As the people came to cry they kneeled down in a row in front of the dead body.

Monday 24 July. I was invited to visit my friend Warree who had been ill some months. He appeared to be in a rapid decline coughing & spitting very [f] much. He too was tabboed but he wish'd me to speak to him and ventured to take hold of my hand. He said he was very much afraid Atua would kill him. I endeavoured to explain to him that there was one great Atua who made the Universe. I could tell him in his own language that all men had offended this great Atua and therefore all men died. That I should soon die myself as well as him, but that the Great Atua had so great love for men that he sent his Son Jesus Christ to save their souls. It was for this reason that I and my colleagues spake so much about Jesus Christ. He loved us and if we loved him we need never be afraid to die. I added that Jesus Christ lived once upon Earth. That he rose from the dead the third day after his death and that he is now in heaven where he will receive the Spirits of

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those who love him as soon as they die. I also endeavoured to convince him of the absurdity of the Eye becoming a Star in the firmament and the other assuming a human shape and fighting at the Trayingha of Atua or cavern which is at the Three Kings which are rocks at the Northern extremity of New Zealand. Warree listened with attention to all I said but could not overcome the prejudices [f] that were rivetted in his mind. A friend came near us after we had finished our conversation to whom Warree recited what he had just heard from me.

Monday 30 July. In the morning I went to see some of my friends the Natives who were crying over the Corpses of three relatives who had just departed this life. In the afternoon I visited a sick man who was near the point of death. I gave him some medicine but it was too late he died early the next morning.

In the winter season I am informed the natives die very fast. Many of them are [virt]ually starved to death but they do not appear to be at all aware of the cause. Their superstition tends greatly to encrease their mortality. The climate is very moist & by exposing themselves to the weather they frequently catch cold. They never eat in their Houses neither do they sleep in them after they find themselves ill. Instead of endeavouring to promote a perspiration by keeping themselves warm, they check it by sleeping in the open air and drinking cold water.

August 18. I went up the River about 12 Miles to sow some wheat for my friend Shunghee & Taire. [f]

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August 21. I went up the River about 6 miles to sow some wheat for my friend Shourakkee. Mr King was in company.

August 28. I went up the river about 12 miles to sow some Wheat for Whidooa, Tahou & Rewa.

August 31. returned to the Bay the brig trial Captain Hovell and the Schooner Brothers Captⁿ Burnett. Captain Hovell states that on Sunday the 20th Instant an Attempt was made by the Natives near Mercury Bay to take both his vessels. He has favored me with the perusal of a Letter to Mess^{rs} Lord and Blaxcell of Sydney his owners of which the following is a Copy.

Gentlemen,

The following letter is the particulars of what transpired on board the brig trial under my command on the afternoon of the 20th August 1815 at Trials Harbour New Zealand Lat 36^o 40S. Longitude 175^o 49 East. At 12,30 PM light breezes and fine clear pleasant weather. I particular [sic] remarked a number of canoes along side both vessels but from the friendly terms we werfe on with the natives and the two chiefs who had constant access to both vessels I thought I had no reason to be under any apprehensions of the safety of them both, but allowed their people to remain outside along [f] the boarding nettings without taking any notice but while the people were below at dinner I received a very severe blow in the back of the neck by a short club from one of the chiefs while making up the matts on the quarter deck with the other chief Narrooroo. I by chance escaped the

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second blow by making my way down the forecastle hatch. At this time they had got command of the upper deck as also a few had got between decks which were soon dispatched by the people having their muskets in readiness and we again had all clear below fore and aft. It was then a moment of consideration how to guard and protect ourselves and prevent them making a rush upon us. I first placed one man at each corner of the main hatch with muskets by that means we cleared every part of the main deck and drove them aft. Finding them so numerous on the Quarter deck I gave directions to fire through the Sky light with two muskets at once which did so much execution and put them to so much alarm that it drove them forward and gave us another excellent chance at the main hatchway. It was at this time they were put to their greatest stand, but on the arrival of Jackky Waddee a native I [f] had shipped at the bay of islands and deserted from me while I was last here gave directions to short both cables and hawl the Ship on Shore which was done accordingly and again returned to the decks but kept themselves close in the long Boat as she stood in her chocks. Finding it impossible to remove them from that situation from any hatches I desired the people to fire through the bottom of the boat as standing over the main hatch and seven shots drove them from the ship entirely and we again got command of her, but found ourselves and the Schooner Brothers laying on shore and within half a cables length from us. The Natives had still got possession of her but a few rounds from our muskets and swivels soon cleared her decks and Mr Burnett with three of his men again made

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their appearance. Both vessels then kept up a constant firing at the natives in the water which were very numerous and from the manner our Guns were loaded I am confident a great number lost their lives exclusive of what was killed on board us as near as I can judge was from twenty to twenty five, and the time they had the vessels in charge was about four hours. I hailed Captain Burnett and found like ourselves both cables were cut he therefore [f] got out three pigs of ballast which hauled us both off the ground and held us until we got the end of one of our cables. At 5 P M saw the three men belonging to us and one belonging to the brothers coming along the Beach who was on mine [?] on liberty with their muskets.

Midnight light breezes and fine clear weather. At 7 A.M. got the small bower Anchor— At 9 buried the dead bodies. At 10 sent a party of men on shore to destroy the town and canoes. At noon the people returned with two pigs having destroyed the principal part of the Town and Canoes with fire. At 2 PM the People went on shore again and set fire to the remainder part of the Town, Canoes, Nets and all their food and returned with one large pig and two small ones— fresh gales with rain. Midnight had northerly Gales with heavy rain.

I cannot conclude these 36 hours remarks without returning thanks to Almighty God for delivering us from the hands of a set of the most desperate Cannibals whose numbers could not have been less than one thousand men employed at both vessels. I have also to return my most hearty thanks to my noble

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little ships company who at all times obeyed any orders I gave them and [f] acted with that coolness as is natural and generally observed in Englishmen.

I have therefore to observe Gentlemen that I hope you will make them some allowance for the loss of their clothes &c when the brig returns to Port Jackson again. I remain

Gentlemen

W. W. Hovell

Killed

Matthew Jackson

Ietea a native

J^{no} O. Neal

Tho^s Hoyse

Jas Marsden

Mem[orandum]

I have nothing further to observe on the above unfortunate business than to express my real regret that Captⁿ Hovrell shbould ever have been sent to New Zealand. He did not behave well tol the Natives on his first arrival here. he defrauded Kiterra of about sixty baskets of flax and Potatoes, and what often leads to quarrels he filled his Vessels with Native Women. I am told His Vessels were full the Evening before the affair near Mercury bay.

MS. 56/7

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Captain Hovell has disturbed the peace of our Settlement. We are not so much afraid of Natives as the rash and indiscreet behaviour of our countrymen.

[T. Kendall]