

Natives if the river ever overflowed its banks, when they informed me it did in the rainy season; but that the water never remained one day upon the Land. I was inclined to credit this Account, as they planted the Banks with Potatoes in various places, and I observed they were not destroyed. And in some places I noticed the Native Huts standing near the Edges of the water, and not swept away. As the Land in general is very level, as well as the banks of the River, something similar to the Thames in England, and the low Land in Kent and Essex, there are many Swamps, which would require to be drained, before the Ground could be converted either into feeding pastures, or the production of Grain. However at the present there is abundance of Land sufficiently dry, to support a large Population, if brought into Cultivation. As an eligible Situation for an extensive Agricultural Settlement, it commands many other local advantages; such as fine wood, plenty of thatch for Houses, and native flax for Rope or lines without end. Together with Shell and other kinds of Fish in the greatest abundance. There is a considerable population, which would by their Labour when furnished with proper Tools contribute to the general good. I have no doubt but the Chiefs would be very ready to locate portions of their Lands to any Europeans who would settle amongst them. The natives have not the means to cultivate their Land. They have neither Tools nor seed to put in the Ground. The most they can produce is a potatoe or Cabbage - and they never can extend their operations of Agriculture further without the proper means. The above observations apply only to the fresh water River and the Land on its banks. The banks of the salt water are very high and only small portions of Land in the bays can be conveniently cultivated. The River is also so wide and open to the Sea tho' more than 30 Miles from it, that Ships in the winter season cannot Anchor with perfect safety in it. There is a good harbour on the East side of the River about twenty Miles from the fresh water, where any Ships may lay in perfect safety; and where I left His Majesty's Ship The *Porpoise*. Upon the whole, I have seen no Situation in New Zealand to be compared to the River Thames, or the banks of the fresh water, for an extensive and advantageous Agricultural Settlement. - On the west side of the Thames at a settlement called *Maqoa* up the River, named the *Wyerua*