

surprised that you should, as agent for this Mission,
take a view only of that side of the question, in debate,
in which all good men must agree with you, and
at the same time remain perfectly silent on the other
side, where the propriety and practice of selling muskets
and powder to the natives of New Zealand in preference
to savage weapons can only be supported & justified.
Namely "weapons of war being almost the only medium
of exchange at present between Englishmen and
New Zealanders, it therefore must be desirable to
dispose of such weapons, if any, in our necessary
bartering intercourse, if we barter at all, amongst the
latter as one of a merciful nature." If those who
would, after mature deliberation, allow muskets, are
inconsistent; those whose fine feelings would not
allow them, are much more so. I will mention
a case in point. A person who does not approve
of the disposal of muskets amongst the natives, and
for whom both you & I entertain, I am sure the
greatest respect, immediately on my return to
New Zealand enquired if there were no small butchets