

38

a Priest has power to take away their lives by incantation, or charm; and attribute many of their deaths to this cause. I may observe here, that I never discovered that the New Zealanders offered up human sacrifices to their Gods upon any occasion, before Thunghee and Temmarangha made the above statement. I am now satisfied, they do perform these cruel rites. After we had ended our conversation, I was walking on the beach when I was met, by a young woman, of a very interesting countenance, and address. She asked me to give her an Hoe. I inquired who she was, and from whence she came. She told me, she was a Prisoner of war, and had been taken between the East Cape, and the River Thames by Thunghees party; and brought to Ranghee Hoo. That her Aunt's name was Heena and a great Queen. I have often heard the natives when at Parramatta, speak of this woman, as possessing a large Territory, and numerous subjects. Mr. Kendall has occasionally mentioned her in his correspondences with me. This young woman informed me, Thunghee attacked their settlement by surprise. She was taken prisoner, in the Town: Her father mother and 7 Sisters, escaped into the Country. None of them were killed. The cause of the attack being made upon them, was, her forefathers had formerly killed three persons belonging to Houpake Tribe at the river Thames, and they came to revenge their deaths. This account confirmed what Thunghee had just stated. While she was stating these circumstances, the young man was standing by, who had taken her, in the attack upon the town, and she was part of his spoil. I observed that when the Active returned, I might visit, if I had time, the place she came from. The young man said, if she went in the Active, he would go too, and would allow her to see the place; but not to land, as she would run away.

Thursday 16. In consequence of many of the principal inhabitants of Ranghee Hoo, having never been able to obtain either an Hoe or an Hoe, since the settlement was formed, we resolved to make a few presents of those articles as far as our means would allow. This morning, and for that purpose, we requested of Sebleos to give us the names of those persons, whom they knew to be the most needy and deserving. Our intention was soon known in the Village: when the Natives in great numbers collected about the public School, which at present contains our stores. When the List was completed, I went to deliver the presents, assisted by Mr. Francis Hall & Mr. Kendall, The Rev. Mr. Butler being confined to the House by sickness. The crowd was so great, that I could