

that was upon it, appeared to have been in cultivation, at some former period, and there were evident traces of a large population. We past near the ruins of two villages, on the edge of this plain. They are now wholly uninhabited. A few Potatoes I observed growing upon the sides of the Hills on which they stood: They had been strongly fortified at no very distant period. The Chief informed us, they belonged to him, and his friends, and at one time contained 1000 Inhabitants: but the Inhabitants had been besieged and were compelled at length to yield to the Enemy, and to quit their strong hold. The Hills are very high upon which the Villages stood, and so strong by nature, that they could not be easily taken, unless the Inhabitants were starved out, for want of water and provisions. When we arrived at the first Village, we were introduced to the old Chief, who appeared to be more than 80 years old, he was all life and spirits: He danced for joy, when we gave him a Chisel. He expressed the greatest satisfaction at our visit. From his words, he appeared to have just returned from labour, in the Potatoe Grounds, and informed us, that he remained upon the farm to attend to its cultivation, but that he would come to Ranghee too to see us. He told us he had seen three Generations, and was in the middle of life when the first Ship came to New Zealand. The Captains name he said was. Stivers. Two other Ships came afterwards, before Captain Cooke. The Captains of the two Ships, before the arrival of Captain Cooke was killed by the Natives near Cape Bret. Before their death they had killed many of the natives, and destroyed one whole Village, in the bay of Islands. This old Chief appeared in perfect health. This Village stands in a fertile spot. Sheltered by lofty firs, and watered by many beautiful small streams sufficient to turn a mill. Here we spent the Evening, in conversing upon Agriculture, and other useful Arts, the Laws and Customs of other Countries. The New Zealanders are eager to gain instruction, have a quick conception, and a very retentive memory. The object of the Missionaries, in coming to live amongst them, the manner in