

1820  
June 15

of the roughness of the water no canoe had ventured off to the Ship, which lay about 6 or 7 miles from that part of the River where it begins to narrow, and into which the fresh water river falls. Captain Downie wished me to take one of the small boats, and go up the River to see if I could fall in with any of the Natives, and gain any information there relative to the Timbers, and he would send Mr. Anderson after me in the Launch in order that we might go up the fresh water River and examine that part of the Country for Spars. I accordingly left the Commodore and pulled up the River, after we had gone about four miles, we were opposite a natives Village, and stood in. The Natives came crowding to the beach inviting us to land; but the Surf was so high, and the Sea and wind that we were afraid to venture near the Shore, lest the Boat should be stove. I called to the Natives and informed them I wanted a Pilot, and that I could not come on Shore for the Surf. One of the principal men of the Village waded thro' the Surf and came into the boat, when we stood from the Land. I now observed the Launch was following us, and fearing she would not be able to find the Channel, as it is very difficult, I got into a canoe, and sent the Pilot in the Boat to meet the Launch, which was in some danger, as the wind was very strong, the sea high, and the water shallow except in the Channel which Mr. Anderson did not know. I now proceeded up the River in the canoe to the first Village where I could conveniently land, in order to wait for the Launch. The Village belonged to one of the principal Chiefs named Tipposhee whom I had formerly known. I found him at home. He was very much rejoiced to see me, I told him the object of my Voyage to the Thames. That I had come in a large Ship belonging to King George for Spars, and wished to know if he could inform me where they were to be met with, and by what means they could be got to the Ship, and that the Ships boat was coming up the River to see if any could be found - He said there were a great quantity of Spars growing upon his land, which we might have if they would answer, and that he would go with us up the River and shew them to us. He told me, he was in great trouble. That the Chiefs on the west side of the Thames, who are distinguished by the name of Howppas Tribe had lately made war upon him, killed a number of his people amongst whom was his Brother, and that he expected they would renew their attack upon him in a short time; that most of his Hogs had been killed, and his Potatoes destroyed, and himself and People reduced to great want. I expressed my