

1820
July 19

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him off. I was therefore induced to ask him if he was afraid that the People of ^{Towrangha} ~~Mercury Bay~~ would kill and eat him, if he was to go with me. He replied he was not afraid of the People; that they would not take any advantage of him: but he was much afraid their God would kill him, from what the Priest had told him. To which I answered if he was only afraid of their God, and not of being killed and eat by the Inhabitants, I would take care their God should not injure him, for the God that would be with us was the true God, and he would take care of us both: Upon this assurance Temwaranga said he would venture. Tho' his mind is much enlightened, and he sees into the absurdity of many superstitious Customs of his Countrymen, yet I had frequent occasion to observe, that his feelings were alive to his former Superstitions, whenever any serious cause occurred to call them forth. When I have reasoned with him and stated to him how foolish and groundless his fears relative to the Akua doing him or his friends this or the other injury, he would reply, it was very well for me to talk in that way, whose God was good, and over whom the Akua of New Zealand had no power; but he and his Countrymen were very differently situated. Their God was always angry, and in his Anger would eat their bowels out. After Temwaranga had got a little better of his fears we embarked for ^{Towrangha} ~~Roupaia~~, with a strong tide in our Favour. The men pulled hard all the day, and we went up the River very pleasantly, and did not stop till the Evening, when we went on shore for a short time kindled a fire on the Bank, and dropped a basket of Potatoes according to their Custom. We had no other means of looking any thing, my Kettle having been left by mistake in the Latch, I had only a small Tin pot for every purpose I wanted. As soon as we had taken some refreshment we proceeded up the River till nearly daylight, when we came opposite a small Village. The night was dark and Cold, with some Rain - We stopt at the Village, when some of the Men went on shore, called up the Inhabitants who kindled a fire, when we landed and took up our residence in one of their Huts. I supposed I was on the banks of the River. -

20th When the day broke I was astonished to find myself upon July 20 the banks of a Creek upon which two small Villages stood. The Chief of the Place was a very fine youth about sixteen years old. His name was A-wangh - His Father he informed me had been killed in Battle. All the Land around him was very fine soil - The Slaves were preparing it for planting. I informed A-wangh where I was going - He said he would go with me - He presented us with plenty of fire -