

1820

July 27

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This forms one of the Branches of Kiperoro River. The Natives ^{to} ~~to~~ across, cut down some small spars which they lashed together, and made a Rope of some native flax which they tied across the Stream to the Trees, as an hand Rail, by which contrivances we got safely over. A messenger was now sent forward to the Chiefs friends to inform them we were coming. We arrived at the first Village about sunset, where a great Abundance of sweet potatoes were provided for our supper. And amongst other things a Cat was roasted. When we declined taking any of the Cat, as an inducement to partake of it, they assured us, it was an English Cat. This we knew for we had seen it in a Basket, during our Journey. On our arrival we found the Chiefs Brother lying under a shed unable to stand from the wound of a spear which I understood he had received some considerable time before. Nowhow and two others who had attended us made great Lamentations over him, and wept aloud. The Place where we lay, and the Ground for some distance round his shed was Tabooed - His Wife and a pretty little Girl were set apart to attend him. No other person was permitted to tread upon the sacred Ground excepting myself and Mr. Ewels. I sat down by the side of this poor afflicted Warrior - He shewed me his Wound. The flesh was wadded away, and he had no power to move it. We gave him a little Tea which he relished very much. They all seemed to feel much for his Afflictions. We spent the Evening in conversation upon the dreadful Calamities of War, the advantages of Agriculture and Commerce &c. Subjects upon which they were anxious to gain information. Nowhow shewed great aversion to War, reprobated the Conduct of many of his Countrymen. Stated how much the People of Kiperoro had been destroyed and cut off by war; that they had been fighting for Years with the Napoos, and the Tribes in the Bay of Islands. And that the Napoos were then in the districts of Kiperoro, plundering and murdering the Inhabitants. I lamented these public Calamities, and hoped when more Europeans resided amongst them, an end would be put to their mutual Contests.

July 28

28th This Morning Mr. Ewels and myself set off to the Land Hills accompanied by one of the Chiefs in order to take a view of the Western Ocean and Shores. We passed a Kippah upon a commanding Spot, but the Chief told us it now afforded them no protection against their Enemies, since fire Arms had been introduced into New Zealand. He shewed us where their Enemies had fired upon them in the Kippah with Balls, and that the distance was too