

1820
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Finding it was of no use to argue with him, I gave him an
Ace which he joyfully Received, and delivered it to the Mepp-
-enger with a request that the Chief would be satisfied, and
not proceed against him - In such strong Chains of Super-
-stition does the prince of this World bind the dark minds of
these poor Heathen Captives. What an infinite blessing will
divine Revelation be to the inhabitants of New Zealand, when
its glorious Light once breaks in upon them. At the present,
their minds are tormented with the most painful Fears
upon the slightest occurrence, which they suppose will offend
their God - and their Bodies suffer very severely from their
strict observance of their Ceremonial Polutions. From the
influence which Satan has upon their minds, they are
driven to the opposite extremes of religious Superstition
and Crime. I have known a Native tell me that his God
would kill him, in consequence of my having taken a
little fire from his, to light mine with, without any inten-
-tion on my part to hurt his mind; and I am persuaded
from his great agitation, that he believed this would be
his fate, while at the same time that very man would
more than probably kill and Eat his fellow Creatures with-
-out remorse. I have never met with one New Zealander,
but who has considered God, as a vindictive Being, and at
all times ready, to punish them for any ceremonial neglect
even with Death - Hence they labour by every mortification
and self denial to avert his Anger. —

A Chief I am well acquainted with burnt his house,
which had been built very neat, and had much carving
about it, in hopes of appeasing the anger of his God, a
very short time ago, I went to pay him a visit and stayed
all night with him, admired the neatness of his House when
I went again there was not a vestige remaining, and on
inquiring the cause, I was told he had burnt it to pacify
his God - August 12th - This morning I took my leave of
Captain Downie and embarked in the Coromandel's Launch
for the west side of the River Thames. The Thames opposite
to where the Coromandel Anchored was about 15 Miles
across - on the west shore another river called the Wairoa
empties itself into the Thames. This River is large. Some
small Islands are situated in it, and in some of the
Coves good shelter, and Anchorage may be found for
Shipping. When I left the Coromandel my intention was
to proceed to Magoa a Native Settlement upon the Banks
of another river which falls into the Wairoa - Here I
purposed to take a Canoe, and immediately set off for

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