

1820
Aug 14

submit to the necessity of my situation.

14th This morning I accompanied E-Nakkee and some other Chiefs, and work men to examine the Canoe and to set about the necessary repairs. The Canoe was about 60 feet long, designed for war, and very commodious. E-nakke immediately set to work with several other men. We took all the Canoe to pieces, in order to make it as strong and complete as it was the day it was first launched. In the course of the day we were visited by different Chiefs, and some from remote parts of the Southward - Several lent their assistance in repairing the Canoe, so that by the Evening they had put a great part of her together again. The weather was wet and stormy, that if the Canoe had been ready, it would not have been possible to put to sea. I spent part of the Day in walking thro' the Potatoe grounds, in which a number of Slaves were at work. Near the Settlement there is a very high Hill, which commands a very extensive prospect. Its top and sides have every appearance that it is the production of some Volcanic Eruption. On the East side the flat Land for the distance of near a mile is covered with stones of various dimensions, very hard, of a dark grey colour, full of holes, and some of them appears very much burnt: The soil both amongst the Stones, and where there are none, is a very rich Dark brown Loam, and fit for all the purposes of vegetation - Agriculture by the Plough might be carried on here to very considerable extent, as a pair of Horses would easily work the greatest part of the ground. They have no grain of any kind - Sweet and common Potatoes with Turnips and Cabbages constitute their principal food. After I had returned from my walks, and the Natives from their Labour, the Evening was spent till a late hour, in conversing upon Agriculture Commerce, civil Government Religion &c. Subjects they show much anxiety to become acquainted with -

Aug 15

15th This morning E-nakkee, and his people began to work at the Canoe, in order to complete her by the Evening. After working all the day, they painted and neatly finished her, excepting a few ornaments made of feathers for the Head and Stern. The weather was very stormy; and from all appearances was likely to continue so - E-nakkee informed me I might not be able to put to sea for a month or more on account of the weather. This news I was not prepared to hear. I was fearful of losing my passage to Post Jackson, and besides I had only a few Days provision. I now resolved to walk to the Bay of Islands; and to leave