

10 In about two hours we arrived at the Head of the Valley situated at ⁽⁶⁹⁾
1820 the foot of one of the Sand Hills. In this Valley stood Awoyes
Aug 18 Village. We had sent a Messenger unknown to me the
preceding Evening to inform his wife of my arrival, when
we arrived at the Village we found a number of People
assembled together waiting our coming. Awoyes wife, daughter,
and slaves were full dressed. They were clothed with their
best Mats; their heads ornamented with Feathers, and had
prepared an immense quantity of Common and Sweet
Potatoes, and some Taro a root which they are very
fond of, about the size of a small Turnip. A Shed had
also been prepared, and covered with Clear Fern for us to sit
in — Here the Natives had a great feast, according to
their custom — There was a portion for me, another for
Tennaranga and the party who constantly attended me,
dressed and placed before us in small Baskets. In this
manner the whole were divided. After Breakfast was
over, what provisions remained each party deposited their
portion in the same baskets they had been served in as their
own, in order to take it away with them. It is an invari-
-able Custom with the New Zealanders to take away what
they cannot eat, when they visit each other. On my first
entering the Village the Children were dreadfully terrified. They
shrieked aloud and ran in all directions to hide themselves,
screaming with all their might — one alarmed another. If
I had come from the invisible world, they could not have
been more sore afraid. The impression upon their infant
minds at the first sight of a white person was so alarming
as not to be removed while I remained amongst them;
tho' some of them attended me with their parents for three
Days afterwards in visiting the different Chiefs. —
Whenever they caught my eye by any accident they shrieked
aloud; and no attentions of mine could pacify them.
I had not met with any circumstance of this kind
before in New Zealand. The Children are generally very
easy, open and familiar at the first interview, and show
an anxiety to pay every little attention in their power to
strangers. There can be no finer Children than the New
Zealanders in any part of the world. Their parents are
very indulgent, and they appear always happy, and
playful, and very active. — After stopping a few
Hours with Awoye and his Friends it was proposed that I
should proceed to the next Village to Dinner, where two
great Chiefs resided; one named A ^{MoKa} moKa, and the other