

1823 Sep 19

At the second Wife having a Son that she murdered her own Infant, and in a little time the second Wife died also - When he arrived this day, and was informed of the above circumstances he was much distressed, and wept greatly. Infant murder is not common in New Zealand particularly of boys - They are very fond of their children, and take great care of them - Thira's Wife murdered her child from mere venation to be revenged upon her Husband for taking another Wife - It is apprehended that Thira will offer a human sacrifice to relieve his mind - Bushee went yesterday to the funeral of a near relation; on those occasions it is common for all the friends of the dead to cut themselves when they weep and mourn - Bushee abstained from this ceremony, and when he returned he said he would never practise it again and that if his Wife was to die he would not cut himself for her; he disapproved of this barbarous custom; Bushee's mind is much enlightened, and he laments much the state of his country - He expressed a wish that some soldiers might be sent to New Zealand to put a stop to their wars - The light of civilization is gradually making its way amongst the higher classes, and in time will produce a happy effect upon them - ^{Sep 20} Saturday 20th This morning I called upon Thira - He expressed his regret at the loss of the Ship - and asked me if she was in King's Ship - I informed him, she belonged to a