

Southward, at a Place called *Tookookkeekha*, he therefore had determined to go there and take some in if there was an Harbour for the Ship to lay safe - when I was in New Zealand before, I had observed the Spars at a distance when at sea, but had not examined them on shore - I determined to go down the vessel, and immediately got a boat, and went on board - we had three Chiefs with us who were interested in the *Limben* - An American vessel called the *Copaka* had been lately wrecked in coming out of the *Gambier River* on the west side of New Zealand, commonly called by the natives *Shunkee-Hanyha* - The loss of this vessel has been a subject of much conversation amongst the New Zealanders -

Loss of the American vessel *Copaka*

Superstition of Natives

The Chiefs gave me the following reasons for the loss - There are two rocks on the South side of the Entrance of the Harbour, which they consider sacred being the residence of the God of the winds and waves - The sailors belonging to the *Copaka* paid no respect to these rocks, but struck them with Hammers - The natives cautioned them against doing so, and intreated them not to touch them, for if they did, their God would be angry - The sailors paid no attention to what the natives said - when the *Copaka* got out of the mouth of the Harbour upon the bar, the God of the rocks got under her bottom, and in great Anger, danced under her, and threw her up and down like a ball - The master let go her Anchors to hold her; but the angry God, cut the Anchors