

Had this settlement been burned, it would have afforded  
great Protection to the missionaries; as a regular  
Communication would have been constantly kept  
up between this Place and that Island. [On Saturday  
last, a vessel arrived from New Zealand with  
Spears, which brings a confirmation of the Fate of  
the Boy. I saw a New Zealand woman yesterday,  
who came in <sup>her</sup> the last vessel and she related the  
melancholy Story to me. The Cause of this misfortune  
is not yet exactly known; as the natives had, at  
all times, previous to this Affair, been kind and  
attentive to our People. It is generally believed here  
that we have <sup>were</sup> been the first Aggressors. It is said that  
many of the Presents which had been given to the  
young Chief Mataru, who was in England, at  
the time I was there, had been stolen from him;  
and also that one of our Ships, which touched there  
for Supplies, had taken away the natives' Potatoes  
by force, without paying them for them, as well  
as Spears which the natives had presented them to