

Marsden's Vale. Bay of Islands

New Zealand Nov. 10. 1823.

Wed June 17/24

My Dear Sir. (Entered)

498 305

The time is fast approaching when our venerable and valued friend will leave this to rejoin his family. Numerous and varied have been the scenes which have presented themselves before us, and tho' I know it would be your wish to possess as many particulars as possible - yet from the unsettled state in which we have been - our numberless calls and occupations - I shall be unable to mention minute circumstances - all our eyes, hands and feet have been totally occupied from our landing till nearly the present time - and it is only now that I can obtain an opportunity of retirement from the bustle of a new station.

On Sunday the 3^d of August we worked into the Bay of Islands and narrowly escaped shipwreck by striking with considerable force upon a sunken rock - but the blow being in an oblique direction - we did not sustain much damage. The sensations of our minds were great upon beholding the canoes with our new countrymen - with their reddened bodies - and bushy hair - they manifested great joy when the ship drew near any of them - but none were on board till we came to an anchor. About two we were in sight of Rangeehoo - a singular looking place, one house above another - it being built directly upon the side of a high hill - it was however exceedingly pleasing to view English dwellings in so rude a spot - with the banner flying the signal of the sacred day.

About sunset we anchored directly between Kiddee Kiddee and Rangeehoo - and tho' the whole day had been occupied by the working of the ship and in the greatest confusion and bustle - yet we had the satisfaction