

and they displayed a great deal of courage and address in approaching and securing them. the pirates having many passengers and others in their power stipulated that they should be landed at kororarika, unmolested by any of the english. this was granted; but no sooner were they left by themselves than a party of natives came forward, seized and bound them, stripped off their clothes, and, after dressing themselves up in them, conducted their prisoners on board the whalers; but notwithstanding the anxiety of the whalers to secure the whole, and the activity of the natives, six of them found means to elude the search, and here they now are. the day on which our houses were burned, these six landed in the train of one of the chiefs; and i have since entertained a suspicion that it was their desire of revenge that occasioned the destruction of our property at the time the calamity happened. i chanced to be in the house alone, and was amazed by seeing an englishman enter the hut with his face tattooed all over. not being aware he was one of the runaways from the wellington, i spoke to him. he slunk into our cooking house on pretence of lighting his pipe, and before ten minutes had elapsed, the house was in flames. chapter xxxi. the climate and productions. the summer was now far advanced, and never, during its progress, had we been incommoded by any very hot weather. our house was generally crowded with visitors: for, as it was the workmanship of king george and his people, they were prodigiously proud of it, and each seemed to think he had an undoubted right to sit in it as much as he liked. this, at times, we felt as a great annoyance; but we were obliged to be very cautious not to say or do anything that they had lived there for ten years unmolested and at peace; who would care to molest them now and yet humphrey, who knew the forest so well its mysterious, interminable depths, its trackless, boundless extent, rolling over hill and valley in endless billows he knew well how silently, how suddenly an ambushed foe might approach, spring out from the thick, tangled shelter to do some murderous deed, and in the maze of giant timber be at once swallowed up beyond all danger of pursuit. in the open plains the indian raids were terrible enough, but the horrors of uncertainty and ignorance which enveloped the settlers in the forests might well cause the stoutest heart to quail when once it became known that the indians had become their enemies, and that there was another enemy stirring up the strife, and bribing the fierce and greedy savages to carry desolation and death into the settlements of the english colonists. whispers rumours had just begun to penetrate into these leafy solitudes; but communication with the outside world was so rare that the angell family, who had long been self supporting, and able to live without the products of the mother colony away to the east, had scarcely realized the change that was creeping over the country. the old man had never seen anything of indian warfare, and his sons had had little more experience. they had been peaceful denizens of the woods, and bore arms for purposes of the chase rather than for self preservation from human foes, as did the bulk of those dwellers in the woods that fringed the western border of the english speaking colony. we have no enemies; why should we fear asked charles, the elder brother, a man of placable temperament, a fine worker with the axe or plough, a man of indomitable industry, endurance, and patience, but one who without his beams to shine. let mirth and glee abound, you'll soon grow bright with borrow'd light, and shine as he goes round. he was also a bit of a dabbler at poetry, a writer of songs, epigrams, epitaphs, c.; and having been a long resident in the east, was thought to be a very useful guide on such an excursion, and proved himself a very pleasant sort of companion: he had a dawning pleasantry in his countenance, irradiated by an eye of vivacity, which seemed to indicate there was nothing which gave him so much gratification as a mirth moving jest. what spirits were his, what wit and what whim, now cracking a joke, and now breaking a limb. give him but food for laughter, and he would almost consider himself furnished with food and raiment. there was however a pedantic manner with him at times; an affectation of the clerical in his dress, which, upon the whole, did not appear to be of the newest fashion, or improved by wearing; yet he would not barter one wakeful jest for a hundred sleepy sermons, or one laugh for a thousand sighs. if he ever sigh'd at all, it was because he had been serious where he might have laugh'd; if he had ever wept, it was because mankind had not laugh'd more and