

succeeded, and as often have they paid most dearly for their treachery and cruelty. in the case of the ship boyd, though they attained their object, they were as completely punished for their perfidy. from their ignorance of the nature of powder, and the use of a magazine, they blew up the ship, and vast numbers of the natives were destroyed. besides this calamity, they brought down upon themselves the vengeance of every vessel that visited these shores for a long period afterwards. as the circumstances may not be generally known, mr. berrys letter, relating the particulars of that melancholy, yet interesting event, is here inserted: ship, city of edinburgh, lima, oct., sir, i am very sorry to have the painful task of introducing myself to you, with an account of the loss of your ship boyd, captain thompson. towards the end of last year i was employed in the bay of islands, new zealand, in procuring a cargo of spars for the cape of good hope. about the middle of december the natives brought me an account of a ships being taken at whangaroa, a harbour about fifty miles to the n.w. at first we were disposed to doubt the truth of this report, but it every day became more probable, from the variety of circumstances they informed us of; and which were so connected as appeared impossible for them to invent. accordingly, about the end of the month, when we had finished our cargo, although it was a business of some danger, i determined to go round. i set out with three armed boats: we experienced very bad weather, and after a narrow escape were glad to return to the ship. as we arrived in a most miserable condition, i had then relinquished all idea of the enterprise; but having recruited my strength and spirits, i was shocked at the idea of leaving any of my countrymen in the hands of savages, and the medical man to reply. yes, said dr ennefer, with a reserve in his voice that implied that he was not there to answer every irrelevant question that it might please foolish people to put to him yes, such a wound as might have been caused by a hammer, or by any other blunt instrument used with violence. even by a heavy stick westray suggested. the doctor maintained a dignified silence, and the coroner struck in: i must say i think you are wasting our time, mr westray. i am the last person to stifle legitimate inquiry, but no inquiry is really needed here; it is quite certain that this poor man came to his end by falling heavily, and dashing his head against this wooden note in the pedals. is it quite certain westray asked. is dr ennefer quite sure that the wound could have been caused by a mere fall; i only want to know that dr ennefer is quite sure. the coroner looked at the doctor with a deprecating glance, which implied apologies that so much unnecessary trouble should be given, and a hope that he would be graciously pleased to put an end to it by an authoritative statement. oh, i am quite sure, the doctor responded. yes and he hesitated for the fraction of a second oh yes, there is no doubt such a wound could be caused by a fall. i merely wish to point out, said westray, that the pedal note on which he fell is to a certain extent a yielding substance; it would yield, you must remember, at the first impact. that is quite true, the doctor said; i had taken that into account, and admit that one would scarcely expect so serious an injury to have been caused. but, of course, it was so caused, because there do; and if i had not caught the post, some pushing person or other might quite possibly have asked him sooner. i meant, of course, to have reported the matter to you, but it slipped my memory. really, she said, with fine deprecation, being only half pacified, i do not see who there could be to ask the bishop except ourselves. where should the bishop of carisbury lunch in cullerne except at the rectory in this unanswerable conundrum she quenched the smouldering embers of her wrath. i have no doubt, dear, that you did it all for the best, and i hate these vulgar pushing nobodies, who try to get hold of everyone of the least position quite as much as you do. so let us consider whom we ought to ask to meet him. a small party, i think it should be; he would take it as a greater compliment if the party were small. she had that shallow and ungenerous mind which shrinks instinctively from admitting any beauty or intellect in others, and which grudges any participation in benefits, however amply sufficient they may be for all. thus, few must be asked to meet the bishop, that it might the better appear that few indeed, beside the rector and mrs parkyn, were fit to associate with so distinguished a man. i quite agree with you, said the rector, considerably relieved to find that his own temerity in asking the bishop