

and we supposed her to be examining it. then eleanor became anxious to get it back, and tried both argument and entreaty, for some time, in vain. at last madame said: what is it, mademoiselle, that you so much wish to read in this volume of the holy writings wisdom and ecclesiasticus are what i like best, said eleanor. eh bien said madame, nodding her head like a porcelain chinaman, and with a very knowing glance. i will restore the volume, mademoiselle. she did restore it accordingly, with the historical narratives cut out, and many nods and grimaces expressive of her good wishes that we might be satisfied with it now. in private, eleanor stamped with indignation whether or no her thick boots had fostered this habit i cant say, but eleanor was apt to stamp on occasion. we had our dear chapters again, however, and i promised eleanor a new and fine copy of the mutilated favourite as a birthday present. eleanor was very good to me. she helped me with my lessons, and encouraged me to work. for herself, she laboured harder and harder. i used to think that she was only anxious to get all the good she could out of the school, as she did not seem to have many so called advantages at home, by her own account. but i afterwards found that she did just the same everywhere, strained her dark eyes over books, and absorbed information whenever and wherever she had a chance. i cant say youre fond of reading, said emma one day, watching eleanor as she sat buried in a book, for im fond of reading myself, and were not at all alike. i call you greedy and eleanor laughed, and quoted a verse from one spot is marsden vale. they very soon gave us to understand they did not wish for our acquaintance, and their coldness and inhospitality i must acknowledge created in my mind a thorough dislike to them. the object of the mission, as it was first planned, might have been attained, and might have proved highly beneficial to the new zealanders; but as it is now conducted, no good result can be expected from it. any man of common sense must agree with me, that a savage can receive but little benefit from having the abstruse points of the gospel preached to him, if his mind is not prepared to receive them. this is the plan adopted here; and nothing will convince these enthusiasts that it is wrong, or induce them to change it for one more agreeable to the dictates of reason. upon inquiring who and what these men were, i found that the greater part of them were hardy mechanics not well educated clergymen, whom the benevolent and well intentioned people of england had sent out in order to teach the natives the importance of different trades a most judicious arrangement, and which ought to be the foundation of all missions. what could be a more gratifying sight than groups of these athletic savages, toiling at the anvil or the saw; erecting for themselves substantial dwellings; thus leading them by degrees to know and to appreciate the comforts resulting from peaceful, laborious, and useful occupations then, while they felt sincere gratitude for services rendered them, at their leisure hours, and on certain days, these missionaries should attempt to expound to them, in as simple a manner as possible, the nature of revealed religion in new zealand, the mechanic missionary only carries on his trade till he has every laid open to them. chapter xxxv. threatened invasion by hongi. we had passed some months here, and were beginning to look out for the return of our brig, to take us again into civilised society, when we were once more thrown into alarm by a threatened invasion. a rumour was circulated in the village that hongi, who now lay at the point of death, had declared that he would make one last glorious effort before he expired. he was resolved it was reported to collect his warriors, overcome george and his followers, possess himself of kororarika, and die upon the conquered territory of his enemy; and i had no doubt that in his moment of delirium such had been his exclamations, as it had always been one of his favourite projects. when this was reported to george, he immediately came to us, and with a most doleful countenance told us we must take care of ourselves; for, if the report proved true, he was much too weak to protect us. this certainly caused us some alarm, but, fortunately for us, a good sized whaler, the marianne, was then lying at anchor in the port, having arrived but a few days previously. the presence of a ship, all over the world, is felt as a protection to europeans, as in case of danger it is a sure place of refuge. king george sent off his messengers in every direction to inform his friends and dependants of the threats uttered against him by hongi, and the next day eight large war canoes, filled