

it appeared ~~at one time~~ to have been in Cultivation
 at some former Period and there was evident traces
 of a large population, we passed near the Ruins of two
 Villages on the edge of the Plain, which are now
 wholly uninhabited, they had been strongly fortified
 at no very distant Period, the Chief informed us
 that they belonged to him and his friends and at
 one time contained 1000 Inhabitants, but they
 had been besieged and were compelled at length
 to yield to the enemy and to quit their Stronghold
 the hills are very high on which the Villages stood
 and so strong by Nature that they could not be
 easily taken unless the Inhabitants were starved
 out. — When we arrived at the first Village of
 Tiqui we were introduced to the old Chief who
 appeared to be more than eighty years of age, but
 was all life and spirit, he danced for Joy when
 we gave him a chief, he expressed the greatest satis-
 faction at our visit, from his hands he appeared
 to have just returned from Labour in the Potatoe
 grounds, he informed us that he remained on the
 farm to attend to his Cultivations but that he would
 come to Pongahoo to see us he told us he had seen
 three generations and was in the middle of life when
 the first ship came to New Zealand, The Captain's
 name he said was Thiers, Two other Ships came
 afterwards before Captain Cook the Captain of
 which was killed by the Natives near Cape Brett
 because they had killed many of the Natives and