

blankets, printed goods, and tobacco, I was given to understand, of 1s. 6d. per day for each man. A singularly loud and echoing noise was heard as we neared the shore, which was caused by the operation of starting a Kaori tree down a declivity.

The importance of the island of Wyheke does not consist so much in its cultivable qualities, as in its local advantages. As a depôt for the collection and export of New Zealand produce, in large vessels, it seems more advantageously situated than either the inlet of Waitemata or Coromandel harbour. Five-sixths of its surface is either densely covered with forest trees, or is too uneven to admit of any but spade cultivation. That portion of it which is at present available to the agriculturist, consists only of those level marginal spaces of from ten to twenty acres, which in this island, as in almost all other parts of New Zealand, are found contiguous to the small bays and inlets which occur so frequently along the coast. Of this kind of land the island of Wyheke contains probably two thousand acres. The best of its timber has been cut down, but what remains would give employment to hundreds of sawyers, boat and ship-builders, whilst the surrounding waters, teeming with fish and edible molluscæ of various kinds, would afford an ample supply of food, in addition to agricultural productions.

During several weeks that I was subsequently detained on this island, I found ample amusement in pigeon-shooting, fishing, boating, and aiding in the construction of a fence, the digging up of a garden, and other little operations necessary to the establishment of every new colonist. We were frequently visited by parties of natives