

and I have eaten them after they have been 8 months in these bags and found the meat as fresh as when put in. It is by these means the New Zealanders, preserve their other articles of animal food." Methods of fishing for barracouta, planting and cultivating potatoes are noted. These latter were introduced by Captain Cook and by this time formed an important food as well as trade crop together with flax for dealings with the sealers and ships trading in and out of Sydney. There is comment on "Etootoo" (Tutu), the juice of which made a pleasant beverage in season. "When I was at Pahee I used the juice with a little gunpowder mixed as a substitute for Ink; and wrote a brief Journal of my adventures . . ."

The writer's interest in the customs of the New Zealanders is revealed throughout the narrative but he says the ". . . strange custom of 'tabooing' I do not understand, further than that it is a law strictly observed." He cites several examples of its operation with regard to the violation of a chief's head, food gathering near an abandoned house and its application in relation to fire etc. He also provides a simple answer based on native superstition which would account for the fact that there were no further incidents of the nature of the massacre of the crew of the *General Gates* which took place in December 1822.

Boulton was to be disappointed more than once in his endeavour to return to Sydney. This led him to join the Otago chiefs for a little time but he finally went to Bluff and joined yet another sealing crew for a further season. Now followed once more a period of hard work and hunger made notable for posterity by a visit to Pegasus Harbour. "[Here] we found a shipwright named Cook, 8 men and 9 women from the Bay of Islands, they had been greatly distressed for food and we were unfortunately unable to assist them." He describes Cook's contract with the Commander of the *Prince of Denmark*, William Stewart, to build "a vessel of 100 tons burthen" at Pegasus. The party was provisioned for six months but had been there for twelve and had abandoned the project to forage for food—"cockles, muscles (*sic*) and fern root." He noted the contrast between the lean and haggard men and their plump women. Each man lived with his woman in a two-roomed house "Cook had 3 or 4 children; his eldest boy could write, and spoke English very perfectly. The women washed, mended clothes etc—and they seemed to be much more expert at making mats than those natives in the neighbourhood of the Straits and far tidier in their persons." Boulton made the most of his time here as is indicated in his vocabulary appended to the account of his New Zealand experiences. There he notes more than one variation in speech between the New Zealanders of the Bay of Islands and the Straits. The sealing party returned some months later and found Cook and his people in great distress. "They had begun to build a small craft of about