



A LITTLE TALK ABOUT MISSIONS.

BETWEEN MAMMA, EMMA, AND MARY.

Continued from our last.

Emma.—Now, Mamma, I have brought my picture of Wellington: will you, if you please, tell us something about New Zealand?

Mamma.—Shall I tell you something about New Zealand as it is at present, with thousands of Europeans living there, and many missionaries and chapels; or would you like to hear some stories about New Zealand when the country was populated only by the Heathen natives?

Mary.—O, tell us about the New Zealanders before the English lived there. Who was the first Englishman who went to New Zealand?

Mamma.—Captain Cook. He was sent by the English Government to the South Sea on a voyage of observation.

Emma.—O, yes, I know; it was to observe the transit of the planet Venus over the Sun.

Mary.—What is the meaning of transit? *Mamma.*—It means passage.

Mary.—What a silly thing to send a ship all that way for people to look at a planet going across the sun!

Mamma.—If the time of the transit could be exactly ascertained, very important advantages would be secured to science. The Governor of Rio Janeiro was very much of your opinion, Mary. Captain Cook, on his voyage out, touched at Rio Janeiro, to get water and buy provisions; but the Governor refused to let him have any. He did not believe him when he told him what the object of his voyage was; but thought he was come for some evil purpose. After a great deal of talk with Captain Cook about the matter, the Governor thought he was going to the South Seas to see the North Star go through the South Pole.

Emma.—How ridiculous! but did he let him have the provision?

Mamma.—Yes; and the ship sailed to Tahiti. They saw the transit and made all necessary observations. Capt. Cook then sailed to the south-east, to make fresh discoveries. After some time he saw land, which proved to be New Zealand. He landed on the shores; but the natives were very much frightened at the sight of Europeans. Captain Cook vainly tried to get some of them on board his ship, that he might show them how kind he would