

this cruel slaughter were a woman, two children and the cabin boy. The boy had gained George's regard on the passage, by treating him with more kindness than the other sailors; and trusting to this, had run up to him in the midst of the slaughter, and implored his protection, when the grateful chief, immediately exclaimed, "No, my boy, I won't kill you—you are a good boy," took him under his own care. The two children, with the woman, who was the mother of one of them, had remained concealed till the fury of the barbarians was somewhat satiated; and the woman is said to have then moved the pity of an old man who discovered her, by her tears and entreaties.

The ship was immediately plundered by the savages of every article of value it contained, although the iron work and the fire-arms were the portions of the spoil which principally attracted their cupidity. George's father was so anxious to commence firing the muskets of which he had got possession, that he had a cask of powder brought up between decks, and, having driven in the head of it, snapped a musket over it, when a spark lighting upon the powder produced an explosion that blew the upper works of the vessel into the air, and deprived him and all the other New Zealander's then on board of their lives.

*History of New Zealand*

#### NARRATIVE.

##### AMURATH—A FRAGMENT.

AMURATH reigned over a great and happy people. Under his government they enjoyed the most ample security and possessed of every blessing of which society is capable. The welfare of his people seemed to occupy his whole attention. He let no opportunity escape of promoting the general happiness, and was ever ready to hear the complaints of the meanest of his subjects. These, when well founded, were speedily redressed. He frequently visited different parts of his empire to correct abuses, and increase the comfort of his people. His subjects appeared sensible of the benefits they enjoyed, and were forward in testifying their attachment to his person and family.

Although, in consequence of the protection afforded to all, and the encouragement given to manufactures and agriculture, together with the numerous institutions for the aged and diseased, want and wretchedness were in a great measure unknown, yet a succession of bad seasons greatly raised the price of corn, and the horrors of famine began to be dreaded. It was on this occasion that Amurath's affection for his subjects was discovered. He was incessantly occupied in providing every means of relief. The royal treasures were employed in the purchase of corn from every country visited by the ships of Amurath. The strictest economy was observed at his own table; and the nobles, following the example of their sovereign, seemed to vie with each other in alleviating the wants of the poor. Nor were these means ineffectual. Such exertions were made, such ample supplies procured, and such economy observed in the distribution, that not an individual was known to have perished through want. All on this occasion joined in ascribing the preservation of thousands to the wisdom and liberality of the king.

The prosperity of the empire had excited the jealousy of a neighbouring prince. Cali, whose

character was the reverse of Amurath's could not bear to hear of his well-earned fame. He determined to attack him, but was awed by his wisdom and power, well knowing, that although Amurath was not desirous of enlarging his dominions by conquest, yet he loved his subjects too well to allow them to be injured. Imagining, however, that the famine had greatly weakened the kingdom, that Amurath's treasury was exhausted, and that his subjects were unable to raise any extraordinary supplies, he secretly began to prepare a mighty army to invade and desolate the country.

His designs did not escape the vigilance of Amurath. He wrote Cali a letter with his own hand, in which he informed him, that although greatly desirous of peace, if war became necessary, he would urge it with vigour; that from the united and happy state of his kingdom, he could not expect to make any impression upon it, and that, if he had any just cause of complaint, he should receive redress. But while Amurath endeavoured to preserve peace, he prepared for war. He put that part of the country where he apprehended the storm would fall, in the best posture of defence, and raised a great army, which he intended to command in person in case of war being declared. His preparations were not premature. Accounts arrived of the enemy having entered the country, and the king, at the head of his army, set out to oppose him.

The utmost order was preserved by the troops. The soldiers durst not plunder the peaceful inhabitants, and whatever they could spare for the army was liberally paid for. This, together with the magazines which had been prepared, in a great measure prevented the calamities which in such cases, generally occur. But what was Amurath's grief when he learned, that the general whom he had appointed to defend the part of the country which had been invaded, had gone over to the enemy, and that his army were now joined with the invader. To add to his concern, he received the most distressing accounts of the barbarities committed on his subjects, and the dreadful depredations they sustained.

Although his army was inferior, he determined to risk a battle, for he could not bear to witness the wretchedness which everywhere presented itself to his view. Having encouraged his soldiers, he led them on to the charge; but a great body of them basely threw down their arms, and yielded themselves prisoners without striking a blow. It required all Amurath's courage and conduct to save the rest of his army, but by incredible exertions he retired in good order, and completely disappointed the expectations of the enemy.

His army was still numerous, and firmly attached to their king, but he durst not risk another battle, as they were much dispirited by the issue of the last. He knew that, by retreating he would expose his subjects to every species of suffering, while obliged to maintain two contending armies. In order to spare his people, he therefore determined to carry the war into the enemy's country. This design he immediately carried into execution, not doubting but he should soon be followed by the enemy's army. Nor was he disappointed. His rival, however, little regarded the sufferings of his own people. He ordered the country to be desolated for many miles to prevent Amurath

from advancing, and by this means greatly retarded his march. He proceeded, however, towards the capital, avoiding a general engagement, but frequently obtaining considerable advantages.

Had Amurath's plans for the defence of his own kingdom been carried into execution, the enemy would soon have been obliged to retreat with disgrace. The fortified places were supplied with every thing necessary for a garrison, and the militia of the kingdom was sufficient to have repelled the force which the enemy was able to spare from the defence of his own country. Cali, aware of this, used every endeavour to sow dissension in the kingdom. He represented Amurath as having basely deserted his subjects in the hour of danger, preferring the glory of foreign conquest to defending his country against invasion. Numberless reports spread to the disadvantage of the king. His conduct was misrepresented, and his character basely traduced.

In the mean time, Cali used every means to obstruct the progress of Amurath; but, aware of his design in changing the scene of action, he reinforced the army he had left in the enemy's kingdom, and, committing the defence of his own country to one of his most skillful generals, he returned to Amurath's kingdom, in hopes of inducing many of his subjects to join the king.

However incredible it may appear, he completely succeeded in alienating the affection of Amurath's subjects. The fortified places were put into his hands, and he entered the capital amidst shouts and acclamations. Those who retained any affection for their king were put to death. The mob, in their fury, set fire to the palace, and his queen and children were cruelly murdered. Every one seemed more ready than another in these scenes of wickedness, and, in order to ingratiate themselves with the new king, they presented a petition, that, if Amurath was taken, he might be executed in his own capital.

Amurath received these tidings with the deepest sorrow. "It is not," said he, "the loss of my kingdom, nor the death of my wife and children, but the base ingratitude of those whom I have loaded with favours, which grieves me to the heart." He did not, however, sink under his misfortunes. He made preparations in his camp, that if any chose to forsake him, they might quietly withdraw; but all declared themselves ready to die in his service. Having made a forced march, he that night attacked the enemy's camp, got possession of it, and completely routed their army. This raised the spirits of his troops, and greatly sunk the hopes of the enemy. Cali, on hearing of it, advanced in person at the head of a very large army, chiefly composed of Amurath's subjects who appeared to be animated with the great hatred of their king.

The battle was long and bloody. They were Amurath's troops thrown into confusion, and thrice did he rally them and repulse the enemy. He seemed to be everywhere. Nothing escaped his notice. Every plan of Cali was anticipated, and his attempts baffled. His superiority, however, of the enemy's army was very great, and victory was still doubtful, when Amurath, alighting from his horse, led on the charge a chosen body of fresh troops. His shock was irresistible. The enemy's centre