

## PEACEABLE NATIVES.

Nothing can prove the peaceful nature of the natives better than the following description from the pen of Dr. Mason, who is accredited with being a person endowed with a hot-tempered and surly disposition:—

“Between 60 and 70 natives (men, women, and children) came in here without spears, and manifested the most friendly dispositions. I fell (sic) in with a party some distance up the river who seemed to oppose our landing. I ordered the boat to pull from them and called to some in their knoes (canoes), one of which had paid us a visit. We landed with him, and soon had an interview with his friends, about 30 men, women, and children, but many of them trembled when they shook hands with me. They saw we would ground the boat, and two of them came after us and paddled before us in their knoes (canoes) to show us the deep water, and then pushed the boat over a small bank of mud. One of them came in here and stole two blankets, but he had been drinking

sperits when he came in. The mistry is where he got the sperits. The soldiers went after him. I positively charged them not to shoot him. We suspect there are white men with them. I have allowed Corporal Winxstead the woman he brought with him (from Sydney Cove), and the privates one woman to wash for them. George Plat, one of the soldiers, has applied for two blankets in lieu of those stolen by the natives."