

husband. If the party refused to give up the Chiefs wife, they are immediately attacked by the Enemy who will not give up the contest till they obtain her, unless overpowered. When they have got possession of a Chief and his wife, after the woman is killed, their bodies are placed in order before the Chiefs. The Arekee or High priest, then calls out to the Chiefs to dress him the body of the man for his God. The priestess, who is also an Arekee, then gives the command to the wives of the Chiefs, to dress the Woman for her God. The bodies are then placed on the fires, and roasted by the Chiefs, and their wives: none of the common people being allowed to touch them, as they are tabooed. When the bodies are dressed, the Arekees take each a piece of the flesh, in a small basket, which they hang upon two sticks stuck into the ground, as food for their God, to whom they are going to offer up their prayers, and to consult relative to the present contest, in order that their God may partake first of the sacrifices. While these ceremonies are performing, all the Chiefs sit in profound silence in a circle, round the dead bodies, with their faces covered with their hands, or mats, as they are not permitted to look on these holy mysteries, during the time the Arekees are praying, and picking small pieces of the flesh from their sacrifices, which they eat at the same time. These consecrated bodies are only to be eat by the Arekees. When all the sacred services are completed the Arekees return the answer of their Gods to their prayers, and offerings. If their prayers and offerings are accepted the battle is immediately renewed, as was formerly mentioned, and all in common feed upon the after slain. They eat the slain, not so much an object of food, as a mental gratification, and to display publicly to the enemy their bitter revenge. Wishing to know if the Arekees prayed secretly to their Gods, at the time of performing the above sacred ceremonies, I asked them the question, to which they replied, no, but publicly, and with an audible voice, that all might hear what was prayed for, unless the Arekees disapproved of their proceedings, in that case, their prayers were not heard. The New Zealanders, are not only afraid of being killed in battle, if they enter upon war without permission of their God, but they are also afraid of spiritual consequences: that they will either be afterwards killed by the anger of their own God, or the Enemy's. They fully believe that