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amongst the New Zealanders when a person was sick to
carry them out of their Huts and lay them in the open
air lest the Huts should be defiled; These people neither
eat nor drink in their Houses, but always in the open
air, for the above reasons. I could not discover that the
New Zealanders had any Graven Images or likenesses of any
heathen Deities as other uncivilized nations have, but they
consider their God as an intelligent spirit or shadow for
when I enquired of one of them what God was like they told
me he was an immortal shadow; yet they suffer much
in times of sickness from their superstitions in being compelled
to lie in the open air, and refuse sometimes for days either
food or water under the impression that if either is administered
to the sick they will surely die. I had often previous to my
present visit to Mycaddoe been struck with the weakly
and aged appearance of young Women who had borne
children and attribute this to the colds and complaints which
they catch during their confinement. In passing thro' the
Village I saw a little naked child laying upon the ground
and a number of people present. A Chief informed me
it was his child and was 2 days old. He pointed out the
mother who was walking about. She very probably
would have been lying there too if she had been sick.
The child appeared very well. I mention this as a proof
that both Women and children at those times of danger
are exposed to sufferings unknown to civil Society. At
small distance from where Meerca's sick was laying, there
was a little Hut and a stage erected in it. Meerca took
me to it and told me his Father had been slain in battle
and that his body was wrapped up and placed upon the stage
where it was to remain till the bones moulder away. I did not
observe any part of the body as the covering had been drawn
up in a round form and not stretched out like our dead. The
chiefs in New Zealand when they die are generally placed upon
a stage in some sacred grove. Several of which I saw. The natives