

59

they feel to the Atua who they say is preying upon them.
In such a case as a common cold the cause and effect
would, one would conceive, be easily understood by an heathen.
But here "Satan reigns with destructive sway". When the
natives are sick they are impatient and angry. They will sometimes
bathe themselves in cold water or drink it when in the height
of a raging fever; their superstition has a tendency to hasten
their death. How similar is the language they use on
this most solemn occasion to that recommended to Job, namely
to "curse God and die". My dear Sir, there is no necessity for
me to multiply cases of this nature to excite you to pray,
and to encourage your pious hearers to pray for the wretched heathen.
Pride and ignorance, cruelty and licentiousness are some
of the principal ingredients in a New Zealanders religion.
He does not, as far as I can learn, bow to a stick or a stone
but he magnifies himself into a god. The chiefs and elders
of the people are called Atuas even whilst they are living.
Our aged friend Terra, says that the God of thunder is in
his forehead. Shunghee and Okeoa tell me that they are
propesed with gods of the sea. When the clouds are beautifully
checkered the Atua above, it is supposed, is planting sweet
potatoes. At the season when these are planted in the ground