

a piece of timber set up, if there is no tree already growing to
perpetuate his memory. This Wahke Tabboo is not suffered
to be molested and is held sacred both by friends and strangers.
Amongst the Natives the least disrespect paid to their sacred
relics, or religious ceremonies and customs is considered a sufficient
ground for a war by enemies, and for a public debate by friends.
The Natives will seldom slay a man for a great offence, or fine
him for a small one immediately after it has been committed: but
they will remember it. If a fine is his sentence, he must take
good heed to his little property, and to his crop of potatoes &c.
at the time of taking up, or else all hands around him
will make demands upon him in behalf of the Alta until
the fruit of his labour is gone. The Natives in their conversation
with Europeans will sometimes say that their religious superstitions
are all a fume: but this is only by way of accommodation
their expressions to the sentiments of the latter. Those who know
them cannot but know that the fetters of their superstitions
are fasted locked upon them. My Colleague Mr Hall and I
were suffered at Whittang on account of the disrespect which
had been paid by Warrakheco's people to some sacred relic,
and not on account of any ill will which the assailants
entertained towards them.