

17.

The New Zealanders believe that the left eye, sometime after death, ascends to the Heavens, and becomes a star in the firmament. Shunghee ate the left eye of the Chief, from present revenge; and under the idea of increasing his own future glory and brightness, when his own left eye should become a star.

From all that I have been able to learn, relative to the New Zealanders eating human flesh, this custom appears to have its origin in religious superstition. I could hear of no instance of any man ever being killed, merely to gratify the appetite; nor of any killed for the purpose of selling their Heads to Europeans or other nations.

The Heads which are cured and sold, are those of the slain in war, which are not intended to be returned to their friends.

At the same time, I am of opinion, that it is