

When all the sacred services are completed, the Arotoos return the answer of their Gods to their prayers and offerings. If their prayers and offerings are accepted, the battle is immediately renewed (as before mentioned,) and all in common feed upon the after-slain.

They eat the slain, not so much for food, as for mental gratification, and to display, publicly, to their enemies, their bitter revenge.

Wishing to know if the Arotoos prayed secretly to their Gods, at the time of performing the above ceremonies, I asked them the question: to which they replied, No: but publicly, with an audible voice, that all might hear what was prayed for—unless the Arotoos 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 on war without permission of their God; but they