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They dreaded, lest any part of the things allotted to me, should touch their taboed articles, which (as they believe and affirm) would cause their death; - or in their own words, "their God would kill them". - The Chiefs and their wives here, were (at this time) taboed - They dared not touch any article of food with their own hands, and, if no one was at hand to serve them when they wished to eat, they were obliged to lie down, or stoop to the ground, in order to pick it up with their mouths.

As the Principal Priest, ^{Woodzakow} had continued with me, from the time I first met him at Nagosa; I took this opportunity of speaking to him, on the subject of "tabooing"; and began by observing, that, the people here endured great, and unnecessary privations from mistaken notions of the Deity - that there was but one true God, who had made them, as well as the white people - who is so just and good, as not to require anything of us, but what is really for our own welfare and happiness; and he would not therefore be angry with them, for eating their food with their own hands; for, it was for such purposes, he had given them hands, and, if he had not intended, these members of the body, to perform all offices to the body - he would not have made them hands at all - Neither would he be angry with them for drinking water out of my cup, or any other vessel, - or for roasting a potatoe at my fire - or on account of me doing so and so at their fires, or ^{at} other taboed things. &c. That they might also eat in their houses freely, without giving offence to God -