

I replied, that I could not credit what they had asserted unless I heard him myself. They, however, maintained it to be a fact, saying that, all the inhabitants of New Zealand knew it to be true. I told the Priest I still doubted the circumstance, and except I was to hear him myself, I could not believe, that either he, himself, or any other person had really and personally heard such a thing, as the whistle of the Attua (God) - and that I wished to accompany him to any place where I might hear the communication between him and the Attua: - He said the Attua was in the bush and I could not hear him - I offered to attend him into the bush; but, when he came to be very closely pressed, he acknowledged they had no God at Riperro; & said he had heard there was a God at "Thukee-Haiga", but, none other - and requested I would give him one of my Gods, and he would put him in a box, that he might always have him, with himself. -

I had never seen any household God, nor had I ever before, heard that the New Zealanders had any idea of a material God: - and I therefore told him, there was but one only true and living God, who had made the world and all things therein; and would to make him a God: - he would be made of wood or some other material substance - which could be easily burned, or otherways destroyed - and consequently of no benefit to any man. - They all smiled at the idea of burning a God, and evidently saw the absurdity, of having, or worshipping a material God. - Whether Satan be permitted, as the God of this world, to practice oral deception, and by such means, maintain the dark superstitions, which pervade the minds of these poor heathens; and so support his spiritual dominion over these benighted lands, - I cannot tell: - But, I have met with no New Zealanders,