

In due course of time, after my return to N.S. Wales, the intercourse between Port Jackson and New-Zealand became more frequent, and the chiefs had opportunities, from time to time, of coming to the Colony, and they, in general, resided with me, during their stay. — I soon perceived they were a noble race of men, and only wanted the means of instruction, to entitle them to rank with civilized Society.

I knew, however, they were Cannibals; as Cannibalism, was a frequent subject of conversation between them and me, at my own residence, as well as on my visits to their native Island: — They do not, of course, view this horrid Custom, as a crime; but, consider, that, if a Chief be killed and eaten by one tribe; It becomes the duty of the injured tribe, to kill and eat one of the same rank belonging to the offending tribe; as soon as opportunity may offer: so that their strong Superstition and mutual wars always excite to Cannibalism. — Having detailed in the foregoing particulars, the full nature of this dreadful habit, and the opinion of a great part of the Chiefs thereon, I shall here only add, by way of confirmation, an account of a most horrid scene of Cannibalism, which took place before the eyes of our Missionaries (in 1821) after they had been six years among them, during which, I had myself paid them three several visits. —

The account given by Mr. Francis Hall is published in the Church Missionary Register for November 1823. from which the following is extracted —

" On the 19th Dec. 1821

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