

1830

April 11

native language, in which all the natives joined the responses. They understood the ceremony as well as Europeans in general do, and were much more impressed with its importance. The grace of God which bringeth salvation, is most evidently appearing in the whole lives and conversation of several New Zealanders, who reside at the Missionary Station. They are thirsting after Christian knowledge. I may here observe that these poor heathens tho' in a barbarous state, are much more likely to embrace the Gospel, than many other civilized heathen nations who profess some national religion. The New Zealanders may be said to have no national religion. They have no rooted national religious prejudices to overcome; and by embracing <sup>Christianity</sup> they expose themselves to no persecution from their near relatives and friends. They incur no public contempt - nor lose their rank in society. There are no religious castes among them as in India, and other parts of the world. There are only two classes in New Zealand, the free and bond. Every one whether he is free or a slave is at perfect liberty to act as he thinks proper with respect to his religion. Their superstition relates particularly to certain spots of ground, or vessels which they have taboed, or set apart for some sacred purpose. I have not met with an instance

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