

64
upon his mind. It sometimes happens when
a man of great repute dies, though it should
be from natural causes, his friends believe
that he has been murdered. When the
Chief Shungee died, of the wounds he had
received in battle, many of his friends
believed that he had been murdered by
a chief ^[Pango] to the southward of the River Thames,
who chanced to be at the Bay of Islands,
and who would have been murdered under
this superstitious impression, if he had
not made his escape. The greatest insult
that can be offered to a chief, is to
use improper language towards him,
and particularly to curse him; as they
are apprehensive that the curse whatever
it be, will come upon them. Hence it
rarely happens that the New Zealanders
make use of bad language to each
other, as Europeans do. When a chief
dies and leaves a wife his brother may
take her if he wishes to do so, but it
is quite optional. When Shungee's eldest
son was killed in battle, his youngest
brother took his wife to live with him
as his wife. Slaves, are either those taken
in war or purchased. It is very difficult
for a slave to escape from his master,
for the law of New Zealand is, that whoever
apprehends a runaway slave, shall be
the future owner of that slave. It is
also a great insult to a chief to call
anything after his name. If a man
were