

of distinction, they would consider him timid, and effeminate. At the same time he promised, he would not be tattooed unless compelled by his friends. (I understand that in time of war, great honour is paid to the head of a warrior, if he is properly tattooed, when killed in battle. His head is taken to the conqueror, and reserved, as the spoils of war, with respect, as a standard when taken from a Regiment, is respected by the victor.) It is gratifying to the Vanquished to know, that the Heads of their Chiefs are preserved by the enemy; for when the Conqueror wishes to make peace, he takes the Heads of the Chiefs along with him, and exhibits them to their Tribe. If the Tribe, are desirous to put an end to the contest, at the sight of the Heads, of their Chiefs, they cry aloud, and all hostilities terminate. This is the signal that the conqueror will grant them any Terms they may require. If the Tribe, do not cry, at the sight of the Heads of their Chief, they are determined to renew the Contest and to risk the Issue of another battle. The Head of a Chief, may be considered, as the standard of the Tribe to which he belonged; and of signal of peace or war. If the conqueror never intends to make peace, he will dispose of the Heads of those Chiefs whom he kills in battle to Ships, or any persons who will buy them. Sometimes they are purchased, by the friends of the Vanquished, from the conqueror, and returned to their surviving relations, who hold them in the highest veneration, and indulge their natural feelings by reviewing them and weeping over them. (When a Chief is killed in a regular battle, the victors call aloud, "throw us the man", as soon as he falls, if he falls within the lines of his party. If the party, whose Chief is dead, are intimidated, they immediately comply with the command. As soon as the Victim is received, his head is immediately cut off, and a proclamation issued for all the Chiefs to attend who belong to the Victorious party to assist in performing the accustomed religious Ceremony, in order to ascertain by auguration, whether their God will prosper them in the present Battle. If the priest, after the performance of the Ceremony, says their God is propitious, this assurance inspires them with fresh Courage, to attack the enemy. If the priest returns an answer, that their God will not be propitious, they will then quit the field of battle in sullen silence. The Head already taken is preserved for the Chief on whose account, the war