

The natives supposing ~~that~~^{the} heat they experienced to proceed from a secret fire within them, they threw off all their Mats, drank cold water, bathed themselves in cold water, and exposed themselves as much as they could to cold, under the idea that the cold would quench the heat they felt. We informed them that this was the way to increase the heat, and to kill them, and that instead of exposing themselves to cold, and going naked, and lying naked in the open air, in the night, they should have kept themselves warm in order to make them perspire, as the perspiration would carry off the burning heat, from their bodies, and not cold air and water.

They laughed at this idea, and supposed that this would increase their Complaint. I then asked them if they remembered any time, when they perspired freely, feeling that burning heat in their bodies, which they mentioned. After some reflection, and Consultation together they thought, from what they felt, when they perspired freely, we might be right in our opinion. They then asked me how Duatterra came to die. I told them by great exertions, and lying out, he had got a violent Cold, which brought on that burning heat which they spoke of, and a violent Complaint in his bowels. The Priest then Tabooed him, would let him have nothing to eat, or drink for 5 Days, and would not let me see him, for fear their God would kill him, and them. That Duatterra had been accustomed to eat our bread, Rice, Sugar, and drink Tea and wine, and when he was ill, the Priest would not allow him to have any of these articles, which he had been accustomed to, and might have relieved him. On account of the Taboo, and for want of proper Nourishment, it was not possible for him to live: and that many of their Countrymen like Duatterra, died in consequence of the Taboo, and by lying in the wet, and cold, when they felt that burning heat. These arguments had some weight with them, and appeared to convince them, that they were mistaken. We further told them, that Pomarree King of Otakeite, some time ago, thought as they did: He Tabooed his houses, his provisions, and was continually, under fear, lest his God should kill him, and his People. But since the Missionaries have lived at Otakeite, and he and his People had been taught the meaning of Gods Books,