

85

he had abolished all Tabooing, eat any thing, slept any where, like the Europeans, and was under no fears of being killed by his former Gods. They were much surprised at this information, and inquired how long it was since Pomaree had ceased to taboo. We told them, that it was more than three years ago, since Pomaree had embraced our Religion. The Chiefs then replied, if we would send Missionaries to instruct them, and to convince them that their Religion was wrong, and to prevent their Gods from killing them, they would think, and act, as we did. Several of them expressed an ardent desire to visit Fort Jackson, as they wished to see how we lived. I promised them, that some of them should be permitted to go, when opportunity offered. — After dinner we left this Village in order to visit another about 4 Miles distant, at the foot of a very high Hill, called Pooka Newee. During our walk we past thro' some of the richest land I had ever seen in this Island, free from Timber, and fit for all the purposes of Agriculture. We arrived about sun set, when an old venerable Chief, upright as a Column, and teeth as white as Ivory, came forwards, with a long Spear in his hand, and stood at a distance, where he offered up an oration, and prayer, according to the New Zealand custom in receiving Strangers, bidding us welcome, and intreating that his Gods would be propitious during our interview, meaning the departed manes of his ancestors, he invoked the Heavens above, and the Earth below, to render our visit, advantageous to his people, and agreeable to us; and that no harm might happen to us, whom he esteemed as God of another Country. We heard the profane adulations with silent grief, and could not but wish most ardently, for the light of Divine Truth to shine upon such a dark and superstitious mind. As we could say nothing at that moment to the profanation which shocked our feelings, Mr. Kendall took an opportunity, in the course of conversation, afterwards, to explain to them, as we made a practice to do at all times, that there was only one God, Jehovah, who made, and upheld all things, and whom we acknowledged, and that we were but Men, looking for happiness, in him; in consequence of what His Son Jesus Christ had