

value. Besides they said we lived here under the approbation and protection of all the Chiefs, and if one Chief was against us, he could only trouble us, by his vexatious applications, he would dread the power of the other Chiefs, and durst not do us any further injury, but if all the Chiefs or the major part of them, were against us we could not live. They further remarked, as we had done them no injury, they had no satisfaction to demand from us, and no just feelings of retaliation to gratify; and observed with a smile, if they naturally craved after human flesh, we might make ourselves ^{very} easy on that head, as the flesh of New Zealanders was much sweeter than an European, in consequence of the white people eating so much salt. At length the Conversation led to the origin of eating human flesh. They first alledged that it originated from the largest fishes of the sea, eating other fishes: and that some even eat their own kind, and that large fish eat small ones - small fish eat insects - Dogs will eat men, and men will eat dogs, and dogs devour each other. The Birds of the Air, also, devour one another. The louse that sucks the blood of man, that man will eat as a just retaliation. And one God will devour another God. I should not have understood how the Gods could eat one another, unless Shunghee had informed me, when he was to the Southward, and had killed a number of People, he was afraid their God would kill him in retaliation, esteeming himself a God, but he caught their God, being a reptile, and eat part of it, and reserved the other part for his friends, as this was sacred food, and by that means he rested satisfied, that they were all secure from his resentment. (With respect to their tedious importunities for axes &c. They said that their anger was merely feigned, and that they were urged to their importunities, by their pressing necessities for those things, that they had tried every method in their power to get an axe or hoe. When they had means to pay for an axe &c they were always ready to do so, and said we could scarcely bring forward a single instance where a man had troubled us for an article, when he was able to purchase what he wanted.) They then stated the general satisfaction it would give the Chiefs if two missionaries