

1620
Aug 18

69
Ground and as soon as they had discharged their Muskets, to
rush upon them. This Stratagem succeeded. The Enemy's shot
part over his men, when they instantly rushed upon them,
threw the whole into disorder killed a Number of their Chiefs,
amongst whom were Weewas Father, and King Georges. The
Chiefs that escaped saved themselves by Flight, and returned
home with only fifteen men, the rest were killed or taken
prisoners. I have often heard the Chiefs who escaped in this
Action speak of this Battle. My friend Temmaranga has
accompanied four war expeditions against Kerevos, in two of which
he was defeated - Many of his friends were slain - amongst
the number was his Grandfather who after he was killed, was
roasted and eat, as a mental Gratification by the Conquering
party. Tho' Temmaranga has been at war with most of the
Chiefs in these districts yet he was treated with great respect,
wherever he came. The different battles and places where they
formerly fought, who conquered and who fell; were frequent
subjects of Conversation. And also what became of the
Bodies of the Chiefs - Whether they were buried or eat.
I met with no family but some branches of them had
been killed in battle and afterwards eat by the Enemy.
If any Chief fell into the Hands of a Tribe by the Chance
of war, whom he had oppressed and injured, they were
sure to roast and eat him - and after devouring his
flesh, would preserve his bones in the family as a
memento of his fate, and convert them into Fish Hooks
and Whistles, and ornaments. The custom of eating their
Enemies is universal. The origin of this Custom is now
too ancient to be traced. It is a subject of constant
conversation with the principal Families I have visited,
And tho' they generally speak of it with a degree of horror
and disgust, yet they expect that this will be their Fate in
the end, as it has been the Fate of their Forefathers and Friends
whenever I came, and the Subject was broached, I represented
to them how much their national Character suffered in the
opinion of all civilized Nations from the horrid Custom of
eating one another. That the whole world looked upon them
with the utmost abhorrence, as no custom of this kind was
allowed in other Countries. Many of them regretted that
it should be the Custom of their Country and observed when
they knew better they would leave it off. That it was not
a new thing, but had always been practised in New Zealand.
If the Head of a Tribe is killed and eat the survivors consider
it the greatest disgrace that can befall them: and in their
turn they seize the first opportunity to retaliate in the
same way. By this means their mutual contests are continually