

great knowledge of the native language; and
also of their customs and manners and religions
but whether he will be ever able to arrange these
matters in a proper manner, in an offensive language
so as to be of general benefit to those employed in
the mission is a matter of some doubt - by prying
into the obscure customs and notions of the
natives, with circumscribed curiosity, his own
mind ^{has} become so polluted that it will be very
difficult for him to purify his Ideas so far; as to
render what he writes acceptable to the public
eye, and ^{to make} himself at the same time understood.
The Character and History of the new Zealanders
would be very interesting, if it could be purely
written - They are a noble race of men; they are
very religious in their way - they ^{are} men of the
first capacity of mind, men of great perseverance
and Enterprise; who never lose sight of an
object, that they set their mind upon until they
obtain it - They are powerful hearers upon
every subject that has come within their
knowledge, possess a quick conception, and
are well acquainted with human nature.
At present there is nothing in New Zealand, but
war to exercise their active minds - Should the
Arts of Peace in time, open to them the field of
Commerce, to bind them Employment, they
will then have less inclination for war -
upon all these subjects as well as the general
concerns of the mission I spent several
Hours conversation with Mr Kendall this day
and after dark returned on board the

danger
of prying
into the
Obscure
Customs
of the Natives

Character of
the New Zealand
men