

is often allegorical. I however learned, that they believe themselves to be the descendants of two persons called *Mowee* and *Henai*, who escaped a universal deluge by flying to the summit of a remarkable high mountain of Owhyhee, called the *Mona Koah*. Here, when the waters began to subside, they say that a large bird, of singular shape and beauty, appeared to them, and gave them the laws and regulations they at present observe. They have received by tradition the names of a line of sovereigns, including the present king, whose number, allowing ten years' reign to each, carries back their political existence nine hundred years. As the monarchy is not acknowledged to be hereditary, but, after the death of the reigning prince, is generally usurped by the chief of the most talents and power, the average of ten years may be considered as not far out of the way. The art of agriculture and the construction of fish ponds, they believe to have been taught them by a prince of great wisdom, whose reign is lost in the remotest antiquity. Many years before the discovery of these islands, two white men landed at Karakakooa in a skin canoe; one of them is reported to have been much respected for his wisdom and prowess as a warrior. I have seen several of their descendants, whose features are very different from the natives in general.

A curious question arises here on the origin of these islanders. May it not be supposed that the Sandwich islands, with the immense range of islands in the southern hemisphere, of which the Marquesas and Society groupes are the commencement, and New Zealand, once formed a

continent, joining probably with the Phillipines, New Holland, Java, Bornea, and the immense archipelago by which the latter are surrounded, which has been broken up by some of the convulsions to which our globe is subject? The general conformity of features and complexion of the inhabitants of most of these islands justify such an opinion. The language of the natives of New Zealand, the Society, Marquesas, and Sandwich islands is nearly the same; their manners, customs, manufactures, and religion differ very little. When I first visited the Sandwich islands, I was in possession of a vocabulary of the language of Otaheite, by M. De Bougainville, by which I could make myself understood, and, on inquiry, I found that the names of animals, plants, mountains, and other remarkable objects, common to both countries, were not essentially different; and it is a remarkable fact, that the term denoting a foreign land in Owhyhee is Otaheite. Yet, before their discovery, they had no idea of the existence of any inhabited world except their own: none of their traditions make mention of it, but all acknowledge a universal deluge. The relative and positive positions of New Zealand and the Sandwich islands, with the other islands between these extremes, render it contrary to every human possibility to assign them the same origin in any other way. They are situated in different hemispheres, where the prevailing winds are so different, that no chance could have carried emigrants from the same place to people the different groupes, unless we allow them to have had, at some remote period, a sufficient knowledge of astronomy to ex-