

lieutenant-governor under New South Wales, to proclaim the sovereignty of the Queen over the whole territory. Lieutenant-governor Hobson accordingly issued a proclamation to that effect on the 23rd of May, 1840, and immediately proceeded to procure the submission of the chiefs, who unanimously acceded to the British domination. This deliberate act, and cession of the chiefs, and of their having been formerly recognized by Great Britain as an independent state, form strong claims for protection on the part of the government. Among the many barbarous tribes that our extended colonial empire brings us in contact with, there are none whose claims are greater. They are not mere wanderers over an extended surface, in search of a precarious subsistence, nor tribes of hunters, or of herdsmen, but a people among whom the arts of government have made some progress; they have a regular division and appropriation of the soil, have some agricultural skill, and have a certain subordination of ranks, and large bodies of them have been converted to the Christian faith. These islands were established into a separate colony by a royal charter, dated November 16, 1840, and Lieutenant-governor Hobson was appointed the first governor, assisted by a legislative council. By the same charter it is directed that the northern island be called New Ulster; the middle island, New Munster; and the south, or Stewart Island, New Leinster. New Ulster, or Eohe-nomauwe, or North Island, is the most populous, as it is probably the most fertile, of the New Zealand group; at least, it is the best adapted for colonization, from its numerous fine harbours, and the rich valleys which intersect it. It is about 520 miles long, and 140 in its greatest breadth, but is very irregular in figure. The occupation of its inhabitants will be almost exclusively agricultural, as the remarkable deficiency of pasturage will prevent the increase of cattle in any great degree. In this circumstance a marked difference will exist between this and the neighbouring colonies of Australia. The numerous missionary stations, which have been long established, are all on the north island, the principal of which are in the Bay of Islands in the N. E. The first colony was founded at Wellington, in Port Nicholson, a splendid harbour in Cook Strait. The future capital, Auckland, has been fixed at Waitemata harbour, in the Shouraki gulf, or Frith of the Thames, in lat. 36. 51. S. long. 174. 45. E. The temporary seat of government is at Russell, a settlement near Pahehn, in the Bay of Islands. In the interior are the extensive lakes of Roturoa and Taupo, and numerous fine streams intersect the country; the mountains are not so extensive as in New Munster, though some attain a great elevation, as Ruafuahu, always covered with snow, and near it the Tongouro volcano, 10,000 feet high. The forests, with which the interior abounds, contain the finest timber for ship-building, and have been extensively used for that purpose. Another native production is the phormium tenax, or New Zealand flax, a species of flag

growing on the margins of streams, and which has been prepared for corlage in great quantities by the natives. Now Munster, Taval Pœnamoo, or the middle island, is of a much more regular figure; it is 580 miles long, and from 100 to 160 broad, and contains about 23,000,000 acres, and the mountains which traverse it have a remarkably bleak and savage appearance, which contrasts strongly with the real amenity of the climate, and the fertility of the land near the coast. In the N. part are some fine harbours and rivers, which have been colonized, particularly the Oyerri or Pelorus river, which has some fine land on its banks. A settlement has been formed by the French on Banks Peninsula, on the eastern coast; the English have also a settlement here, and it is frequented by the whalers on the S. side. This peninsula consists of a succession of hills, which are clothed with verdure to their summits, and well adapted for agricultural and pastoral purposes. The climate of the middle island is represented as being delicious. The productions of Europe flourish here, and potatoes and cattle are raised in many parts of it. Stewart's Island, or New Leinster, is the southernmost of the group, and is much smaller than the other two, being only 38 miles broad by 40 long. It has some fine harbours, particularly Port Pegasus, on the S. E. From its being more to the S. the climate is somewhat colder than in the others; but it is a beautiful and fertile island; the number of paroquets giving rather the appearance of a tropical climate. There is plenty of timber, among which are several varieties of pine: all the trees appear to be evergreens. The Europeans resident on it raise pigs, poultry, potatoes, and wheat, for the whalers who visit its shores. The number of Europeans estimated to be in the colony, at the commencement of 1841, was about 4000. The only native quadrupeds are dogs and rats; the former are domesticated. The birds, like the vegetables, are almost entirely peculiar to the country. The creeks swarm with fish, which are equally delicious with those of Europe. The rocks are furnished with great quantities of excellent muscles, one sort of which measures above a foot in length, and with great variety of other shell-fish. The natives are stout and fleshy, but not corpulent, and are exceedingly vigorous and active. The women, in general, are smaller than the men, and are chiefly distinguished by the softness of their voices. The bodies of both sexes are marked with black stains, which is the same as tattooing at Tahiti. Their dress is also the same with that of the natives of that island. Their houses are miserable lodgings, and their only furniture consists in a few small baskets, in which they put their fishing-hooks and other trifles. Their food consists chiefly of fish, with which, instead of bread, they eat the root of a kind of fern, which they scorch over the fire, and then beat with a stick till the bark or dry outside falls off. Besides their dogs they also contrive to kill birds; and in most parts of the northern island they have sweet potatoes,