

# Northern Messenger

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## The Maoris.

The Church Missionary Society's 'Intelligencer' gives a rather sad account of these 'representatives of a vanishing race.' It says:—'The Maori population of New Zealand, according to the census of 1896, is in round numbers 39,800. Forty years ago the great majority either were professedly Christian or were more or less closely attached to one or other of the Missions which were working among them, but the

to overpower them by the use of a military force, and to deprive them of their lands. The missionaries were consequently regarded with suspicion, and in some districts they were obliged to leave their stations, their schools were perforce discontinued, and Christian worship was generally abandoned.

'During the last thirty years a generation has grown up, in many places in a state differing little, if at all, from absolute hea-

places, who claimed to have gained 3,000 adherents.

'There still remains about 6,000 heathen, chiefly in the Waikato and Tarauki districts, and another 6,000, who are generally known by the name of Ringa-tu. The last mentioned abstain from work on Saturday by way of repudiating the practice of the Church in observing the first day of the week, and hold meetings for worship, at which certain portions of Scripture and a few prayers are recited, the object being apparently to satisfy a religious instinct by a perfunctory observance, without any notion of moral or spiritual improvement.

This interesting and apparently badly-used people have considerable skill in carving, an illustration of which we give on this page.—'Missionary Herald.'



CARVED MONUMENT IN NEW ZEALAND.

war of 1860 and following years wrought a sad change in a large portion of the North Island. The feeling against the English was intensely bitter, and though many of those who were in arms against the Government of the colony probably had no intention of renouncing their Christianity, the notion had become widely spread, especially in the disaffected parts, that the missionaries had been in reality emissaries of the British Government, which had always intended, when the opportunity might come,

thenism. In other districts the people continued for the most part firm in their profession of Christianity, and it is estimated that there are now in the North Island 16,000 in connection with the Church of the province of New Zealand. These formed settled congregations, and are ministered to mainly by clergy of their own race. Besides these, there is a considerable number in connection with the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions. For some years past there have been Mormon missionaries, too, in various

## Why Not Now?

(New York 'Witness'.)

Dear Editor and Friends: I read a little article in 'Sabbath Reading' about curing sin. I want to be a Christian, and wish that I knew how to be. It said in this article that if we confessed our sins to God he would forgive them, and remember them no more. Does this mean that we must confess every sin that we have ever committed, separately, and having confessed and repented, need we ever be troubled about those sins again? I would like to be a Christian and work for God, if I only knew how. I have had this desire intensified by reading the 'Witness' and 'Sabbath Reading,' to which papers I have been a subscriber for a long time. I wish some one would help me; for I need help so much; and I most earnestly ask for the prayers of the Editor and all who see this letter.

GENEVIEVE.

You could not possibly confess every sin you ever committed separately. If that was the condition of forgiveness, no one could hope to find favor with God.

But what you can do, and what will do you a great deal more good, is to confess your present sinfulness. Examine your own heart in the presence of God and in the light of his claims upon you, and tell him what you find there. Are you self-seeking, or proud, or frivolous, or vain, or ill-tempered, or uncharitable? Are you lacking in kindness and consideration toward others, or in willingness to deny yourself for the purpose of helping others? Above all, are you lacking in love to God, in submission to his will, in desire to obey him in all things? Evil habits of thought or of desire are the sins which you especially need to confess humbly before God and from which you need most earnestly to seek deliverance.

If any particular acts of sin are lying on your conscience, these should be specially confessed, but it would be impossible to go back over all your life, or even over a single week, and remember everything.

The great object to be attained by the confession of sin is to impress upon our own consciences a sense of God's abhorrence of the sin confessed and thus to make us feel the necessity of fighting against it and putting it away from us absolutely. Any confession of sin that does not tend to this re-