

C O O K ' s

Third and Last

VOYAGE to the PACIFIC OCEAN.

C H A P. XIV.

WE had not long been settled at the observatory, before we discovered the habitations of a society of priests, who had excited our curiosity by their regular attendance at the morai. Their huts were erected round a pond, inclosed with a group of cocoa-nut trees, by which they were separated from the beach and the village, and gave the situation an air of religious retirement. Captain Cook being made acquainted with this discovery, he resolved to visit them; and, expecting the manner of his reception would be singular, he took Mr. Webber with him, to enable him to represent the ceremony in a drawing. When arrived at the beach, the commodore was conducted to Harreno-Orono, or the house of Orono. On his approaching this sacred place, he was seated at the foot of a wooden idol, resembling that we had seen at the morai. Here Mr. King again supported one of his arms. He was then arrayed in red cloth, and Kaireekeea, assisted by 12 priests, presented a pig with the usual ceremonies. After this solemnity, the pig was strangled, and thrown into the embers of a fire, prepared for that purpose. When the hair was singed off, a second offering was made, and the chanting repeated as before: after which the dead pig was held some time under Captain Cook's nose,

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