

a wilderness of underwood—their leafy heads so loaded with tufts of rushy parasites, that the true foliage is almost lost in the rank vegetation of the alien polypæ. Innumerable creepers, the rope-like supple-jack, up to the gigantic vegetable boa-constrictor, coil round every stem, run up every limb, glide from head to head, and entwine the topmost branches of a dozen trees in fifty Gordian knots. The underwood consists of three creepers, and of an equally dense growth of young saplings, mixed with forest shrubs, such as the delicate lady's hair, an elegant plumy fern, and many others. It presents so many obstacles to free step and movement, that none but a patient and accomplished pedestrian would struggle through it at a greater rate at most than a mile an hour.

"Indescribable is the charm of New Zealand forests for the lovers of nature. There, generations of noble trees are seen decaying, and fresh generations rising up around the moss-covered trunks of fallen patriarchs. No sound is heard save the falling of trees, or the parrots' shrill screech. Glimpses only of the sky are caught through the leafy canopy above, and at high noon-day in the fields it is always green twilight in the woods." Bold, beautiful, and fine is the scenery of the country at large, and as it is fertile and cultivable, with a climate adapted to European constitutions, multitudes of the surplus population of the British Isles have settled upon it.

Some of the native Maories affirm that they are Jews, because many of their customs resemble those of the Jews. We learn from a writer in the "*Intelligencer*," who held a high official position in New Zealand, that there is a remarkable agreement amongst the Maori tribes as to their origin. They count from seventeen to twenty-one generations from their arrival in the islands, and many of the principal families can trace back their genealogy, giving the names of each of their ancestors during the whole period since their landing. They all agree that they come from "Hawaiki," supposed to be the Sandwich Islands. They came in twenty double canoes, each carrying several hundreds of people. They were driven from their original country through a war about land and women.

Their traditions of the origin of mankind indicate a Scriptural source. The first death was that of a woman, who, for the violation of duty, was, while asleep, entered by a lizard or creeping creature, which devoured her vitals. Idolatry never in any shape existed amongst them. They never conceived any thing material or taugible in connexion with Deity. They believed in the immortality of the soul, and in an unseen world in which there were seven heavens. In all their actions there was a recognition of a super-natural and spiritual agency. When the Maori planted his ground, he commenced the work with the prayer of the priest. When he gathered in his harvest, the first-fruits were presented as a wave-offering to his God. Each undertaking was commenced and completed in prayer. If a fishing net was to be made, the flax was consecrated by the priest, and it was sacred until it was used. On its being first drawn, the largest fish was selected by the priest for himself. It was so in building a house. The materials and the builder were sacred till it was finished. There was a constant recognition of a Spiritual Being, and of their dependence upon Him. In a war expedition, the first act was to consecrate by prayer the warriors for "the advance." If they were successful in war, the heart of the first victim was made an offering to the god of war, and his body being regarded as sacred was never eaten. They were cannibals, and ignorant of Gospel light. Their land was full of the habitations of cruelty. But they believed that "every kind of wickedness was natural to the human heart." Hence, on the arrival of