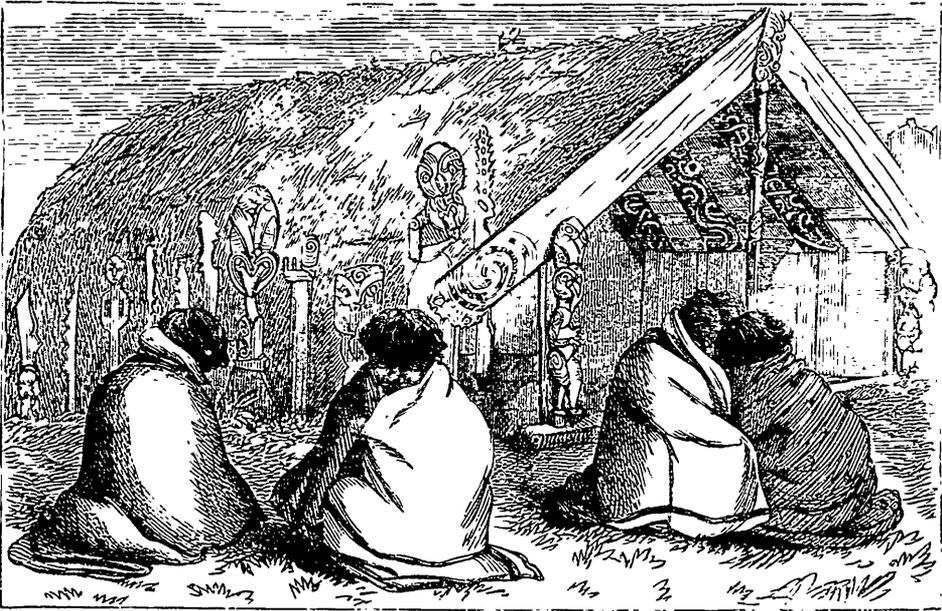


The Sunday Morning Guardian

VOL. I.—NEW SERIES.]

NOVEMBER 22, 1879.

[No. 22.]



MAORI HOUSE, NEW ZEALAND.

STRANGE MAORI CUSTOMS.

THERE is one Maori custom which seems to us very droll; and as the children take part in it we must give some description of it. It is their mode of salutation, which is done by pressing their noses together, and is called *hongyi*. It really is the end of a queer ceremony called *tangi*. When friends meet, who have not seen each other for some time, how do you think they show their joy? By doing the very last thing you would expect. They cry together! They draw their mats over their heads, covering all their faces but their eyes, and squat on the

ground opposite each other, and then set to crying till the tears run fast down their cheeks. When this has gone on a little while, they come closer and squeeze nose to nose for some time, giving little short grunts during the process. After this they laugh and talk, and tell each other the news, and are as merry as possible. The strangest thing of all about this is, that they can make the tears come just when they like. An English artist once showed an old woman a picture which he had painted of her brother, a Maori chief. She begged that he would leave it with her a little while, saying, "It is my brother, my brother! I must *tangi* till the tears come!"