

not however so gentle, nor are their habits so accordant with our notions of female propriety, being often extremely dirty in their personal appearance and domestic management ; but their countenances are expressive, and their features well formed. The lips are frequently disfigured with tatoo, which gives them a singular and unpleasant appearance, like that of persons who have been eating black-berries.

The British resident has made one attempt to unite the principal chiefs in a sort of council, in which they might act collectively ; and in theory he succeeded so far as to induce them to consent that each one should no longer act singly, but that in affairs of importance the collective opinions of the chiefs of the 'united tribes of New Zealand' should constitute a decision. The members of this national council signed a formal declaration of their independence, and agreed to meet annually for purposes of government. But unhappily these auspicious indications were very transient, and the perverseness of some exasperated individuals, who could not support the dignity of civil rulers, frustrated the design altogether. On the occasion of a dispute about some land which had been sold, the national assembly was convened at the 'resident's' place of abode near the Bay of Islands, to decide the case. This was readily done, but the vanquished party in the rage of disappointment, flew to their more congenial arbitrators—their muskets—and fired upon the assembly. Some lives I believe were lost on the occasion, and it has never since been deemed expedient to call together such unmanageable counsellors. It is very much to be regretted that the untoward conduct of a few lawless individuals has, for a time at least, set aside a noble attempt to benefit by justifiable means this distracted country.

THE END.