

men, bearing each a wand tipped with dog's-hair, and pronouncing with a loud voice, a short sentence. The crowd which had assembled on the shore, retired at our approach, and not an individual was to be seen, except a few persons who had prostrated themselves on the ground, near the habitations of the adjacent village.

Previous to our account of the peculiar ceremonies respecting the homage paid to Captain Cook, it may not be unnecessary to describe the morai, already mentioned, situated on the beach of Kakooa. It consists of a square solid pile of stones, 40 yards in length, 20 broad, and 14 feet high. The top of it is flat, and it is surrounded with a wooden railing, whereon are displayed the skulls of those natives who had been sacrificed on the death of their chiefs. A ruinous wooden building is situated in the center of the area, connected with the railing by a stone wall, dividing the whole space into two parts. Five poles, about 20 feet high, supported an irregular kind of scaffold, on the side next the country; and on that towards the sea, were two small houses, with a covered communication. To the top of this pile we were conducted by Koah. At our entrance we saw two large wooden images, with most distorted features, having a long piece of wood of a conical form, inverted, proceeding from the top of their heads. Here Captain Cook was received by a tall young man, having a long beard, who presented him to the images, and chanted a kind of hymn, in which he was assisted by Koah. We were then led to that side of the morai where the poles were erected; at the foot of which 12 images were erected, and ranged in the form of a semicircle; the middle figure having a high table before it, like the whatta of Otaheite, on which we saw a putrid hog, and under it some cocoa-nuts, plantains, potatoes, bread-fruit, and pieces of sugar-cane. Captain Cook was conducted under this