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Hours.	Min.	Sec	
9	25	4	Morn.
9	44	4	
3	14	8	Afternoon.
3	32	10	

Latitude

Latitude of the observatory 17 deg. 29 min. 15 sec.
south;—longitude, 149 deg. 32 min. 30 sec. west
from Greenwich.

While the gentlemen and officers were busied in viewing the transit, some of the ship's company having broke into the store-room, took the liberty of stealing a quantity of spike-nails. After a strict search the thief was found out; he had, however, but few of the nails in his possession; but he was ordered to receive two dozen of lashes, by way of example.

On the 4th, the two parties sent out to observe the transit were absent; on which account, we deferred keeping his majesty's birth-day to the next day, the 5th, when we celebrated the same, several of the Indian chiefs partook of our entertainment, and in turn drank his majesty's health by the name of Kihiaro, the nearest imitation they could produce of king George. About this time an old female of some distinction dying, gave the English an opportunity of observing the ceremonies used by these islanders in disposing of the dead bodies of their people; which, as we have observed, they do not directly bury. The reader has already seen the description of the bier, the placing the bread-fruit, &c. which, according to Tubourai Tamaide's account, was a kind of offering to their gods.

In the front of the square space, a sort of stile was placed where the relations of the deceased stood to give token of their grief. There were under the awning some pieces of cloth, whereon were the tears and blood of the mourners, who used to wound themselves with a shark's tooth upon these occasions. Four temporary houses were erected at a small distance, in one of which remained some of the relations of the deceased; the chief mourner retired in another; and was dressed in a particular manner, in order to perform a certain ceremony. When the corpse is rotten, the bones are buried near the spot, and these places were found to answer the purposes of religious worship, though Captain Wallis could not perceive the traces of any such worship among them. Concerning the ceremony we are about to speak of, the following is the account we have of it, which may not be unentertaining to the curious reader. It was performed on the 10th, and Mr. Banks was so desirous of being present, that he agreed to take a part in it, when he was informed, that he could not be a spectator on any other condition. He went accordingly in the evening, to the place where the body was deposited, where he was met by the relations of the deceased, and was afterwards joined by several other persons. Tubourai Tamaide was the principal mourner, whose dress was whimsical, though not altogether ungraceful. Mr. Banks was obliged to quit his European dress, and had no other covering than a small piece of cloth that was tied round his middle; his body was blacked over with charcoal and water, as were the bodies of several others, and among them some females, who were no more covered than himself. The procession then began, and the chief mourner uttered some words which were judged to be a prayer, when he approached the body, and he repeated these words as he came up to his own house. They afterwards went on, by permission, towards the fort. It is usual for the rest of the Indians to shun these processions as much as possible; they accordingly ran into the woods in great haste, as soon as this came in view. From the fort the mourners proceeded along the shore, crossed the river, then entered the woods, passing several houses, which became immediately uninhabited, and during the rest of the procession, which continued for half an hour, not an Indian was visible. Mr. Banks filled an office that they called Niniveh, and there were two others in the same character. When none of the other natives were to be seen, they approached the chief mourner, saying Imatata; then those who had assisted at the ceremony bathed in the river, and resumed their former dress. Such was this uncommon ceremony, in which Mr. Banks performed a principal part, and received applause from Tubourai Tamaide, the chief mourner. What can have introduced among these In-

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dians so strange a custom as that of exposing their dead above ground, till the flesh is consumed by putrefaction, and then burying the bones, it is perhaps impossible to guess; nor is it less difficult to determine, why the repositories of their dead should be also places of worship.

On the 12th, the Indians having lost some of their bows and arrows, and strings of plaited hair, a complaint was made to the captain. The affair was enquired into, and the fact being well attested, the offenders received each two dozen of lashes. The same day Tubourai Tamaide brought his bow and arrows, in order to decide a challenge of shooting between him and Mr. Gore; but it appeared they had mistaken each other, Mr. Gore intending to discharge his arrow at a mark, while the Indian meant only to try who could shoot farthest. The challenge was dropped in consequence of the mistake being discovered; but Tubourai Tamaide, in order to display his skill, kneeling down, shot an arrow, unfeathered (as they all are) near the sixth part of a mile, dropping the bow the instant the arrow was discharged. Mr. Banks having this morning met several of the natives, and being informed, that a musical entertainment was expected in the evening, he, and the rest of the English gentlemen resolved to be present at the same. They went accordingly, and heard a performance on drums and flutes by a kind of itinerant musicians. The drummers sung to the music, and the English were much surprized when they found, that they were the subject of their lays. The songs they therefore concluded to be extemporary effusions, the rewards whereof were such necessities as they required.

On the 14th, in the night, an iron coal rake for the oven was stole; and many other things having at different times been conveyed away, Captain Cook judged it of some consequence, to put an end, if possible, to such practices, by making it their common interest to prevent it. He had already given strict orders, that the centinels should not fire upon the Indians, even if they were detected in the fact; but many repeated depredations determined him to make reprisals. About twenty-seven of their double canoes with sails were just arrived, containing cargoes of fish; these the captain seized, and then gave notice, that unless the rake, and all the other things that had been stolen, were returned, the vessels should be burnt. The menace produced no other effect than the restitution of the rake, all the other things remaining in their possession. The captain, however, thought fit to give up the cargoes, as the innocent natives were in great distress for want of them, and in order to prevent the confusion arising from disputes concerning the property of the different lots of goods which they had on board. About this time another incident had nearly, notwithstanding all our caution, embroiled us with the Indians. The captain having sent a boat on shore to get ballast, the officer not meeting immediately with what he wanted, began to pull down one of the sepulchral mantions of the dead; which sacrilegious act of violence was immediately opposed by the enraged islanders. Intelligence of this dispute being received by Mr. Banks, he went to the place, and a reconciliation was soon effected, which put an end to the dispute, by sending the boats crew to the river's side, where a sufficient quantity of stones were to be had without a possibility of giving offence. This was the only instance in which they offered to oppose us; and, (except the affair of the fort, which has been related) the only insult offered to an individual, was, when Mr. Monkhouse, the surgeon, took a flower from a tree which grew in one of their sepulchral inclosures. Upon this occasion, an Indian came suddenly behind him and struck him; Mr. Monkhouse laid hold of the assailant, but two of his countrymen refused him, and then they all ran off as fast as they could.

On the 19th in the evening, while the canoes were still detained, Oberea and several of her attendants paid us a visit. She came from Tootahah's palace, in a double canoe, and brought with her a hog, bread-

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