

Tattooing we find common among many primitive people; but none has raised it to such an art as the New Zealander. While the Samoan covered his equatorial regions with punctured patterns and designs, the Maori proudly wore his crest on his face. As the heads and bodies of chiefs were, after death, embalmed, the former became coveted articles by the early traders, and were purchased at pretty good figures. Such a trade sprang up that the Maoris couldn't supply the demand, so that they had recourse to tattooing slaves, feeding them well at the same time. When the work was completed, the slave had to surrender his head to find its way to some museum. The Governor of New South Wales finally put a stop to this inhuman traffic. A nicely tattooed head was worth about a hundred dollars.

Lafcadio Hearn writes: "The real religion of Japan, the religion still professed in one form or other, by the entire nation, is that cult which has been the foundation of all civilized religions, and of all civilized society—ancestor worship." This has developed into three forms—from the Domestic Cult to the Communal Cult, and lastly to the State Cult. The first, or worship of family ancestors, is common to all the Polynesians and is especially marked among the Maoris. No occasion is lost in paying tribute to the many virtues of their forebears as well as of near relatives and friends. Even the ordinary greeting at meeting, which the Maori does by rubbing noses, is immediately followed by the tangi, or moaning or wailing, at the time recalling the memory of someone, probably of one recently deceased, whose virtues are extolled. These tangis, in which whole communities would take part, assumed such proportions that the Government had to interfere.

The legends, traditions and lore of the Maoris were zealously guarded by their wisemen or *tohungas*, whose offices were sacred. It is from them that the ancient history of these people has been obtained.

But the intrusion of the white race—the spread of schools and commerce, the introduction of agricultural implements—all have hastened effacing the *tohungas*, and either doing the same with the Maori or else drawing him within the vortex of modern civilization. In any event, the Maori as an interesting subject