

tities of muskmelons and watermelons, common for both male and female; but they are not allowed to eat them together; nor the man even to cut for the woman.

The women at particular periods are not allowed the company of their husbands and families, but retire into the woods and mountains with calabashes of water and food, and after about three days return.

Their civil department, or government, with a small exception, is in the hands of one person, resembling an absolute monarch or emperor, called Tamaamah. He has a number of places of residence: on the island of Owhyhee he has a seat at Toahoi bay and another at Karakakooa bay where capt. Cook was killed, and on the island of Wahoo he has a large brick house. He has power only by waving the hand, to cause the immediate execution of his offenders: his word in all cases is imperious law. His subjects when they approach him on any message, fall to the earth a considerable distance from his person, and creep like reptiles to his presence, and then arise and speak. No person, neither of the chiefs, or commonality, at any age, or on any occasion, is allowed to put his hand on the emperor's head or shoulder, nor any common person on a chief's head on pain of death; for that they consider as a token of assumed superiority. Under this em-