

served them several months; after which they moulder away gradually. Omai informed us, that the bodies of all their great men, who die a natural death, are thus preserved; and are exposed to public view for a very considerable time after. At first, they are exhibited every fine day; afterwards, the intervals become greater and greater; and, at last, they are very seldom to be seen.

We quitted Oparre in the evening, leaving Otóo, and all the royal family. The Captain saw none of them till the 12th; when all, except the chief himself, honoured him with a visit. He was gone, they said, to Attahooroo, to assist at another human sacrifice, sent by the chief of Tiaraboo to be offered up at the *morai*. This second instance, within so short a period, was a melancholy proof, that the victims of this bloody superstition are very numerous amongst this humane people. The Captain would have been present at this sacrifice also, had he been earlier informed of it, but now it was too late. For the same reason, he omitted being present at a public transaction, at Oparre, the preceding day, when Otóo, with great solemnity, restored to the adherents of the late king Tootaha, the lands and possessions, of which, after his death, they had been deprived.

Otóo returned the next evening, from exercising the most disagreeable of his royal duties; and,