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## TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN, &c. 1949

the grave, we erected a post, and nailed thereto a piece of board, whereon was inscribed the name and age of the deceased, and the day of his departure from this life. These memorials we were assured they would not remove, and, it is probable, they will be permitted to remain, so long as such frail materials can endure.

Being much in want of fuel, Captain Cook desired Mr. King to treat with the priests, for the purchase of the railing belonging to the morai. Mr. King had his doubts respecting the decency of this overture, and apprehended the proposal might be deemed impious; but in this he was much mistaken: for an application being made for the same, they expressed no kind of surprize, and the wood was delivered without the least stipulation. While our people were taking it away, Mr. King saw one of them with a carved image; and, upon enquiry, he was informed, that the whole semicircle (as mentioned in the description of the morai) had been carried to the boats. Though the natives were spectators of this business, they did not seem to resent it; but on the contrary, had even assisted in the removal. Mr. King thought proper to mention the particulars to Kaoo; who seemed exceedingly indifferent about the matter, begging him only to restore the center image; which was immediately done, and it was conveyed to one of the priests houses.

For some time, the king, and his chiefs, had been very importunate to know the time of our departure. From this circumstance, Mr. King's curiosity was excited to know the opinion these people had entertained of us, and what they supposed to be the object of our voyage. He took considerable pains to satisfy himself respecting these points; but the only information he could get was, that they supposed we had left our native country on account of the scantiness of provisions, and that we had visited them