

They carried their banner, which was a small eight-page catechism of Christian doctrine. As soon as this Joshua and his four followers appeared on the scene, the heathen orators began their speeches, and in the usual manner, with violent gesticulations, they charged the missionary with all the evils under the sun, especially the displeasure of the "Natmases," or spirit gods, whom they continually propitiated to avert calamity, disease, and death.

When the orators sat down exhausted, Waihit was asked what he had to say for the missionary. His youthful companions whispered that they could not open their lips to speak before all the old men. "You have got the *Intas Ahothaing*" (literally "The Question Book"), "ask me the questions, and I will give the answers before all the people."

Then these five Christian soldiers stood up and the best reader began :

"How many gods are there ?"

"Waihit answered in a loud voice, "One only."

"Who is the true God ?"

"Jehovah, He is the true God, and beside Him there is none else."

"What is God ?"

"God is a spirit. He has not got a body like us."

"Does God see us or not ?"

"Yes, God sees every one of us."

"Does God hear our words ?"

"Yes, God hears every word we utter."

"Does God know our thoughts ?"

"Yes, God knows all our thoughts."

When they had got thus far, question and answer before the great crowd who had been amazed at *the calm composure* of Waihit and his companions, instead of an excited reply, Tikau, the leading opponent, a fierce-looking man, highly decorated with red paint, shouldered his war club and said to his followers, "Who can answer these words? Let us be going;" and in shorter time than it takes to tell the agile savages were following the leader, every one to his own home. The faintest rays of gospel light had penetrated these five minds. Yet their simple faith was rewarded in a marvellous manner; it had been given them, according to