

of the head and the relation of the above circumstances struck me with horror, and filled my mind with indignation against these cannibals. Curiosity, however, got the better of my indignation, and being desirous of being an *eye witness* of a feast which many doubted, I ordered a piece of the flesh to be broiled and brought to the quarter deck, where one of these cannibals eat it with surprising avidity. This had such an effect on some of the sailors as to make them sick. That the New-Zealanders are cannibals, can now no longer be doubted. Few consider what a savage man is in his natural state, and even after he is in some degree civilized.

Among many reasons which I have heard assigned for the prevalence of this horrid custom, the want of animal food has been one; but how far this is deducible either from facts or circumstances, I shall leave those to find out who advanced it. In every part of New-Zealand where I have been, fish was in such plenty, that the natives generally caught as much as served both themselves and us. They have also plenty of dogs; nor is there any want of wild fowl, which they know very well how to kill. So that neither this, nor the want of food of any kind can be the reason. But whatever it may be, I think it was but too evident that they have a great liking for this kind of food.—*Capt. Cook.*

The New-Zealanders are ignorant of the art of boiling. Having no vessel in which water can be boiled, their cooking consists wholly of baking and roasting.—*Universal Geography.*

They were seen to eat the vermin with which their heads were sufficiently stocked.

Tovy or Tavai Poenammoo, the southern division of New-Zealand, is for the most part a mountainous, and to all appearance a barren country. * *

Eaheimaumee, the northern most division has a much better appearance. The summer temperature here was not higher than 66°. The winter also seemed equally mild; for in June, 1773, which corresponds to our December, the mercury never fell lower than 48°, and the trees at the time retained their verdure, as if in the summer season, so that their foliage is seldom shed, till pushed off by the succeeding leaves of spring. * * * There are no quadrupeds but dogs and rats, and the rats were so scarce that few of them were seen. The dogs live with the people, who breed them for no other purpose than to eat. * * * *

For this scarcity of animals upon the land, the sea, however, makes an abundant recompense, every creek swarming with fish. * * * The sea coast is also visited by many oceanic birds, particularly albatrosses, sheerwaters, penguins and pintadoes.

The dispositions of both sexes are sanguinary and ferocious, and they are implacable towards their enemies. * * * Cannibals in general are not solicitous for the preservation of animals, or careful in rearing them, when they procure *human flesh* with less trouble. These ferocious savages, therefore, wage continual war on one another, and the victorious gorge themselves upon the flesh of the vanquished victims.

Their perpetual state of war, and destructive method of conducting it, operate so strongly in producing habitual circumspection, that one hardly ever finds a New-Zealander off his guard, either by night or by day. Indeed, no other men can have such powerful motives to be vigilant, as the preservation both of body and soul depends upon it: for, according to their system of belief, the soul of the man whose flesh is devoured by the enemy, is doomed to a perpetual fire; while the soul of the man whose body has been rescued from those who killed him, as well as the souls of those who die a natural death, ascend to the habitations of the gods. * * * If they have more of their slaughtered enemies than they can eat, they throw them into the sea.—*Capt. Cook.*