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MAORI TRADITIONS.

Legends and Customs of the Natives
of New Zealand.

Many traditions of the Maoris of
New Zealand indicate true refinement
of feeling. That of Niwreka, or Great
Delight, is one of these and represents
a gentle Maori maiden, beautiful and
modest, who, though deeply loving her
bridegroom, yet shudders at the bar-
barity of his people and at his delight
in bloodshed and cruelty. Unable to
bear the sights and sounds around her,
she passes from his embrace and seeks
the shadows of another world. Only
through great suffering and sacrifice
does her young husband, unable to bear
his solitary lot, redeem her from the
shades. This beautiful legend is bound
up with the origin of the custom of the
tattoo, an ordeal which the lover was
compelled to endure that he might
realize the nature of suffering.

One of the finest legends of old Maori
romance relates how a daughter of the
heavens condescends to dwell with
man, but, repelled by his rudeness
and want of sympathy, ascends again
to the skies, carrying with her her
earth born child. Her husband is only
able to reach her and regain her love
by "climbing upward, not by earthly
tendrils, but by those which, descend-
ing from the heavens, have taken root
in earth."

One curious feature of the domestic
life of the New Zealand natives is that
the old women are led to believe that
the highest honor they can enjoy is to
be permitted to do all the cooking and
prepare the food. A great deal of labor
is thus left to them, which they
cheerfully perform, resenting any in-
terference on the part of the younger
Maori women, who thus have plenty of
leisure for enjoyment.—Chicago News.

Learn to see in another one's calamity
the ills which you should avoid.—
Publius Syrus.

He Set a Date.

A merchant in a Wisconsin town who
had a Swedish clerk sent him out to do
some collecting. When he returned
from an unsuccessful trip he reported:
"Yim Yonson say he vill pay ven he
sells his hogs. Yim Olsen, he vill pay
ven he sell him wheat, and Bill Pack
say he vill pay in January."

"Well," said the boss, "that's the
first time Bill ever set a date to pay.
Did he really say he would pay in
January?"

"Well, aye tank so," said the clerk.
"He say it ban a cold day ven you get
that money. I tank that ban in Yanni-
ary."—Harper's Weekly.

Perfectly Charming.

"You seem to find your book very
interesting, Miss Maklstone."
"Yes, it is one of the most charming
stories I have ever read. And so
true to life. Every man in it is a vil-
lain."—Chicago Record-Herald.

A Great Thinker.

Wiggs—Young Swoosher is a great
thinker.
Wiggs—Indeed!
Wiggs—Yes; he thinks he can sing—
Philadelphia Inquirer.

Deadly Snakes.

The deadliest of snakes is said to be
the mamba, an African cobra. It flies
at everybody and everything; it goes
out of its way to quarrel; it will even
come down from a tree to solicit an
interview. Over in India there is the
great king cobra, or hamadryad, a size
larger, quite as fierce—it has been
known to chase a man on horseback;
he had to ride for his life—but his
poison is a degree less virulent. The
difference, however, may be considered
negligible and causes to interest the
patient after a few minutes. Among
the Australian cobras, the pit vipers
of America and the great west African
vipers there are species with evil repu-
tations, and the most alarming feature
is that the aggressive snakes are all
desperately poisonous.

The Step of Bolivia.

The area of Bolivia is not accurately
known, yet it is probable that its
present area is not far from 600,000
square miles, which is the equivalent
of the area of Germany, France and
Spain combined. From the lowlands
on the east and southeast the land
rises, sometimes by easy slope and
sometimes by abrupt uplift to the
snowcapped peak of Sorata, with its
altitude of near 25,000 feet and to the
pyramid of Illimani, which is given as
21,800 feet in height. La Paz lies at
an elevation of 11,000 feet above sea
level and Potosi at nearly 14,000 feet.
A few miles west of La Paz lies the
inland sea of Titicaca, at an elevation
of 12,000 feet.

His Position in the House.
"Gracious!" exclaimed the fond wife,
coming in her husband's den and find-
ing him smoking his pipe and reading.
"This room is thick with smoke. I
don't see how you can stand to sit in
here."

"You can't!" responded the brutal
husband. "Well, I don't stand to sit
in here; I sit to all in here. Did you
think you had married a freak?"

It is said that this was the first time
in their married life that she slammed
a door on leaving him.

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