

numerous class, distinguished by the name of *rungateedas*, or, as it has been more recently written, *rangatiras*, which appears to answer nearly to the English term *gentry*.<sup>\*</sup> It consists of those who are connected by relationship with the families of the chiefs; and who, though not possessed of any territorial rights, are, as well as the chiefs themselves, looked upon as almost of a different species from the inferior orders, from whom they are probably as much separated in their political condition and privileges as they are in the general estimation of their rank and dignity. The term *rangatira*, indeed, in its widest signification, includes the chiefs themselves, just as our English epithet *gentleman* does the highest personages in the realm.

Although there is no general government in New Zealand, the chiefs differ from each other in power; and some of them seem even to exercise, in certain respects, a degree of authority over others. Those who are called *areekes*,<sup>†</sup> in particular, are represented as of greatly superior rank to the common chiefs. It was, probably, a chief of this class of whom Cook heard at various places where he put in along the east coast of the northern island, on his first visit to the country. He calls him *Teratu*; and he found his authority to extend, he says, from Cape Turnagain to the neighbourhood of Mercury Bay. The eight districts, too,

<sup>\*</sup>The latter word is correct.

<sup>†</sup>*Arikis*.