

I. LINGUISTIC.

A, the first letter of the New Zealand alphabet. It has two principal sounds, —(1) *long*, as in the English words, *father*, *rather*; and (2) *short*, as in the English words, *man*, *mat*.

It is sometimes interchanged for *e*, as in *kai=kei*, *hai=hei*, *taina=teina*, *anei=enei*, &c.

Grammatically considered it is of first importance in the formation of words and sentences.

1. It is the termination, or last letter, of all passive verbs.

2. *A*, short, is prefixed to the names of persons, and to many personal pronouns, when not preceded by *ko*, *no*, *mo*, and *to*; and sometimes it is prefixed to the names of things—always when personified or bearing a person's name, as a canoe, ship, &c.—and to tribes, lands, stars,—and to names of months and days:—

Haere koe ki *a* Hemi noho ai.

Kawea atu tenei ki *a* Tamati.

Na, *a* Mea, *a* Henare, he tangata pai ia; *a* Tamati he tangata kino.

Ka rere mai *a* Tainui, *a* ka u.

E tangi ana *a* Hue ki *a* ia, ka ripi ripia ka toe-toea.

“Ka whakaatu ake i *a* Kaukaumatua. — Ka rapua *a* Kaukaumatua” (a stone earring).—*Myth.* p. 78.

Ko te putake tenei i riro mai ai *a* Mangakahia ki au, ko te huru.

Kua tae mai o au tuhi, i tuhia e koe i *a* Hurae, i *a* Akuhata, i *a* Hepetema ano hoki.

3. *A*, long, is prefixed to names of persons, to living things, and to personal pronouns, to form the possessive case plural. (*See* O.)

Nga kuri *a* Hoani. Nga kai *a* te poaka.

A maaua patu. *A* ratou kai.

Haere ana ratou ki te whawhai, tenei hapu tenei hapu o ratou; i *a* ratou ano *a* ratou pu, *a* ratou tao, *a* ratou rakau.

4. *A*, long, is also prefixed to names of persons, to living things, and to personal pronouns, to give the substantive or verbal noun, following or preceding, an active meaning.

I kite ano ahau i te patunga *a* Hoani i tena kuri.

I pera hoki te ahunga iho *a* nga kanohi, me ta te tahae ua hopukia.

Katabi ka patua i te tirohanga mai *a* nga tangata.

E kore ahau e neke i te pehanga *a* te nui, *a* te whakahee.

E ta, ka putake te riri *a* o matou nei tipuna ki Heretaunga.

I nui te korero *a* te Hapuku: koia ano te riri *a* taua tangata!

5. *A*, long, is also prefixed to all proper and common names of men and women, and to pronouns, whenever the

noun immediately preceding is that of any article of food, or of any implement or utensil for obtaining and preparing food, or of any place or thing for storing food, or of fire and firing for cooking food, or of any implement of war, to be used by them. (*See* A, *prep.* of.)

Ko te pu *a* Hoani tena.

Te patu *a* Mea.

Tenei te kete i ngaro *a* taku hoa.

Te kohua paku *a* te wahine tenei.

6. *A*, long, is prefixed to the definite article immediately preceding the noun and verbal noun, and also to possessive pronouns, to give a future meaning.

Meake ano ahau tae atu ki kona *a* nga ra o Tihema nei.

Ko *a* te tau koroi koe kite ai.

Hei *a* te rerenga o te kaupuke te mate ai. (*See* A, *prep.* at the time of.)

7. *A* long is also prefixed to proper and common names of men and women, and to personal pronouns, to show the natural relationship downwards.

Nga tamariki *a* Hoani—John's own children.

Kahore he uri *a* tena tangata i toe.

I taona ai Tunui *a* Takaha na i. *Poet.* 220.

Ko wai koe? Ko au ko Tauhou. Ka ui atu ano ia, Tauhou *a* wai? Tauhou *a* Ira; ko ia atu.

8. *A*, long, is also prefixed to adverbs of time to give them a future meaning, as *a* mua, *a* muri; and to adverbs of place, as *a* konei, *a* konaa, *a* koo, *a* reira; and to prepositions of place, as *a* runga, *a* raro, *a* waho, *a* roto, for intensification and emphasis; and in a very few instances to nouns, as *a* uta; possibly, in some instances, for euphony:—

Ka hoe matou ka hua e kore *a* uta e taea atu.

Penei hoki e rere ana, ahiahi rawa ake ka taea *a* uta.

Ka hoe raua ki te moana, *a* tawhiti noa, ka ngaro *a* uta.

Ina hoki, i wehea atu te moana mo nga ika, i wehea mai *a* uta mo te tangata.

A, *adv. part.*, when

Ano te hari o taua tangata *a* tana kitenga i *a* ratou!

Hei karakia i to ratou waka *a* te putanga mai o te hau.

Maau ano e mau mai *a* to haeretanga mai.

—and then

Naau i kii, e kore e pai; *a*, i mea atu ahau, Heoi.

Ko tenei koi noho nga iwi, *a* whakarongo ki aana patipati.

He whakatakariri noku, moana, i haere tona ingoa, mohio, *a* tukua ana e ia tona kaha ki raro.

E peka taaua nei ki tahaki, *a* taukini-kini, *a* taurakuraku. *Poet.*, 172.

—then

Kua mutu to patai? Ae. *A*, maaku tenei patai.

A, aha ana koe?