

THE PRESBYTERIAN RECORD

FOR THE
DOMINION OF CANADA.

Vol. VI.

DECEMBER, 1881.

No. 12.

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The Gospel in the South Seas.

(Continued.)

While the labours of the London Missionary Society were thus being crowned with success in the Society, Hervey, and Samoan Islands, the Church of England and the Wesleyans had established themselves strongly in Australia and New Zealand and began to extend their labours also to the islands. The first field entered upon by the Methodists was the TONGA or FRIENDLY ISLANDS, which had almost been lost sight of since the murder of the missionaries in 1797. In 1822 the Rev. Walter Lawry was deputed by the friends of the cause in New South Wales to visit the Tongan people with a view to reviving the mission. Though he made little progress himself, he reported favourably of the field and, in 1826, the English Conference sent out the Rev. John Thomas and Rev. John Hutchinson. These were followed in 1828 by two others, Messrs. Turner and Cross who settled on Nukualofa where marvellous success soon attended their labours. Village after village submitted to the Gospel and a work of reformation commenced almost unparalleled in the history of missions. The good news spread to the other islands and in a short time the whole group was reclaimed from heathenism. Every vestige of idolatry disappeared. In 1829 they had thirty-one church members. In 1834 the number had increased to 7,451, with as many scholars attending the schools. The most

remarkable case of conversion was that of George Tubou the Chief of Haabai, who afterwards became King of the whole of the Friendly Islands. As a youth he was fierce, savage and warlike, and devoted to the idolatry and superstitions of his country. But under the influence of Christianity he and his wife Charlotte became conspicuous in after life for humble piety and zeal for the cause of Christ. George became a useful local preacher and his wife was equally successful as class-leader and teacher of females. Rev. Thomas West who joined the mission in 1845, had the honour of completing and carrying through the press a copy of the entire Bible in Tonguese, and published a complete history of the mission in his "Ten years in South-Central Polynesia." At the present time the Methodists have 126 churches, 8,300 communicants, 5,000 scholars and 17,000 attendants on worship in the Friendly Islands, out of a population of 20,000. In commemoration of the great reformation in these islands, it was enacted by the king and parliament that, "as it was on the 4th of June, 1852, that civil liberty came to Tonga, that day shall be observed annually, in all the kingdom, as a festival, for ever and ever, in memory of the liberty of Tonga."

THE FIJI ISLANDS are about 225 in number. About eighty are inhabited. Viti Levu—the Great Fiji—is ninety miles by fifty; population 50,000. Vanua Levu—Great Land—is nearly as large, having 30,000 inhabitants. The others are seven or eight groups of small islands, the total population being about 140,000. Situated between 15° and 20° S. latitude, the climate is warm but not unhealthy. The soil yields food in prolific luxuriance. The supply of fish is inexhaustible. The natives are a muscular, rather well shaped race, with a dark purple complexion, and the head covered with a mass