

## JOHN WILLIAMS.

In November, 1839, JOHN WILLIAMS, the heroic "Martyr of Erromanga," bade farewell amid tears and sad forebodings to his family and flock on Samoa, and sailed away to bear the Gospel of the grace of God to the people of the New Hebrides,—for John Williams breathed the apostolic spirit, and was ever planning to carry the light to the "regions beyond." He reached Tanna on November 18th, found shelter at Port Resolution, and settled teachers under the care of chiefs who promised to be friendly. On the 19th the mission party set sail for Erromanga. Although he had succeeded at Futuna and Tanna, Williams was still anxious, for he was aware of the fierce and treacherous character of the Erromangans, and he was sensible of the magnitude of his enterprise. He told his companion, Cunningham, that he had passed a sleepless night from considerations such as these,—“that he was oppressed with the weight of the work, and feared he had undertaken more than he would be able to fulfil; that so extensive were the islands he had engaged to survey, that many years of anxious toil would be requisite, ere he could realize his own designs, or meet the expectations of his friends at home.” On that 20th November, 1839, the fatal blow was struck. John Williams was killed by the cruel Erromangans whom he had trusted and attempted to win by kindness. Harris, who was travelling with the missionary for the benefit of his health, fell at the same place under the spears of the savages. Others of the company narrowly escaped death.

Two Samoan teachers were placed on the islands in 1840; but they were subjected to constant ill-treatment, and in 1841 had to be removed. Years passed without any further effort on Erromanga. In 1842, Messrs. Turner and Nisbet, of the London Missionary Society, were settled on Tanna, and toiled there patiently and courageously for