

render to all who are trying to translate the Scriptures. And what has the Word of God done for Savage Island? It has brought life and immortality to light. The people that walked in darkness have seen great light. Out of 5,000 people on that island there are now 1,670 communicants, members of Christ's Church, men and women who have a clear perception of the great central truths of Christianity. The reality of their faith is seen in their changed lives, and one of the greatest characteristics of this is their love of Sacred Scripture. It has given a light in the hour of death. An old man who had grey hairs upon him before he heard the name of Christ, and who had patiently learned to read in our schools, was, a few years ago, brought suddenly near to death. He failed to recognise his dearest, nearest relatives. His wife he knew not. Soon after he was asked if he knew Christ: "Know Jesus!" he said; "Oh, yes, I know Him. I learnt of Him years ago, and all my hope and trust is in Jesus now;" and soon after he passed away, as we believe, into the presence of that Lord whom he had learned to love, and whose name had come to occupy so dear a place in his affections. "And at eventide there shall be light." The Word of God has laid the foundation of social order; law and government have been established, and in their native Parliaments the Word of God is always the Book of their appeal. Recently Her Majesty's High Commissioner for Polynesia, Sir Arthur Gordon, visited the island, and strengthened in the hand of the native legislators by entering into a sort of treaty with them that their law against the introduction of spirits should not be repealed without consulting Her Majesty's representative. The Word of God is the source and foundation of education. "The entrance of Thy Word giveth light." The foundations of their literature were laid in the Word of God, and on Savage Island to-day there is perhaps a larger proportion of those who can read and write in relation to the whole population than in any other part of the civilized world. The Word of God established commercial relations with the big outside world. No sooner does Christianity come in than new wants are created, and that leads to the development of industry and of character. While formerly Savage Island was dreaded by the navigator, now many vessels visit its shores, regularly carrying away the native produce, and giving in return the trade of the civilized world. Homes of comfort are now to be found on this barren rock; peace and plenty have taken the place of war and famine, and all this blessed change the people attribute to the Word of God. So great has been the change that a gentleman who visited it in 1864, and spent some hours on the island, returned to England and informed the British public, in a two-guinea book, that the Savage Islanders were always a gentle and mild race, and that the great navigator had made a mistake in the name he gave them. Nearly twenty years' experience as a missionary leads me to believe very strongly that in the Word of God we have the only true civilizer of men; that every so-called civilization which springs from any other source is but a base and spurious one. But wherever the Word of God takes root it must, like the banyan tree, extend its blessed shade, every new branch taking root and giving out others. No sooner had Savage Island become Christianized than an auxiliary missionary society was formed, and £5,000 has been subscribed during the last seventeen years, testifying the people's appreciation of the Word of God and their desire that others should share with them in its blessing. And, my lord, some from Savage Island are nobly working for Christ in that great island of New Guinea, while the noble army of martyrs has been increased by some from that lone island. Only last year six fell in New Guinea, victims to the cruelty of the natives. They died in their effort to save others. Thirty years ago a stranger landing on their island would certainly have been killed. In work like this the Missionary Society and the Bible Society, like twin sisters, go hand-in-hand. You cannot give people the Word of God until men have picked it up word by word from native lips, and the missionary knows that the only true basis of the people's faith and their religious life is the in Word of God; and he knows, too, that the Bible