

the Government and the Churches by the London Missionary Society, which had befriended them for half a century. He was everywhere cordially welcomed, and came into closest contact with the native population; to an extent, indeed, that no English missionary or traveller had ever done before.

The Doctor testifies of the great religious revolution that has taken place that it is, to use his own words, "*a real thing*,"—that it has affected and improved the nation most powerfully at its heart, the capital of the country, as well as far away in the interior." He received a formal reception from the Queen and visited most of the missions. He gives an accurate map of the country travelled—one example of the many benefits conferred by missionaries to geographical science. The book is handsomely illustrated with engravings of the striking scenery of the country. The extensive towns of Fianarantsoa and Ampanvarinana—the latter, with its large and lofty church, dominating the whole region like the cathedral of a continental town,—and the elegant palace of Her Malagasy Majesty, will be a surprise to most readers. If opportunity offer we shall give a more detailed account of this book.

*Forty Years' Mission Work in Polynesia and New Guinea.* By the Rev. A. W. MURRAY. Cr. 8vo., pp. 509. Illustrated. New York: Robt. Carter & Brothers.

One of the least known regions in the world is the vast island of New Guinea, fifteen hundred miles in length and five hundred in breadth. Even its outline is not yet distinctly known, and much of its interior is a true *terra incognita*. Next to Australia, it is the largest island in the world. Yet in this great island no missionary efforts were made till the year 1871. This book gives a record of forty years of mission life in the adjacent islands of Polynesia and of visits and later efforts in Papua, or

New Guinea,—years of toil, and trial, and triumph, whose record absorbs our interest, awakens our sympathies and inspires our faith. In those summer islands of the Southern Seas with the feathery foliage of their tropic palms, the waveless quiet of their still lagoons, and the treacherous perils of their coral reefs, in whose balmy air mere existence seems a luxury,

"Where every prospect pleases and only man is vile,"

the Gospel is still found to be the only panacea for the wants and woes of humanity. And its efficacy proves as potent for the savage Papuan or the cannibals of Eromanga or Raratonga as for the philosophers of Athens or the warriors of Rome.

*Four Years in Ashantee.* By the Missionaries Ramsayer and Kuhne. Cr. 8vo. pp. 320. Illustrated. New York: Robt. Carter & Brothers.

The records of missionary adventure possess a perennial fascination for the mind. Of no region is this more true than of Western Africa. The contact of deepest barbarism with Christian civilization proves the adaptation of the latter to raise the most fallen and degraded to the dignity of men and the fellowship of saints. Probably no mission field in the world presented a condition of greater barbarism than the dominions of King Coffee of Coomassie. "We slay," said the Court executioner to Sir Garnet Wolsley, in the tone of a butcher who speaks of his trade, "somewhere about five or ten a day," and during the year 1873 from two to three thousand had been slain by the will of the truculent monarch. Among these wretches it was the fate of Messrs. Ramsayer and Kuhne, Swiss missionaries, the former with his wife and infant son, to be made prisoners, loaded with irons and treated with the utmost indignities. The story of their captivity, perils, and deliverance by the intervention