

## RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

## MISSIONS IN POLYNESIA.

## THE FEJEEANS.

Our readers will peruse with interest the following extracts from the journal of the Rev. JOHN WATERHOUSE. We feel persuaded that the sympathies and fervent prayers of the friends of Missions will be thereby excited in behalf of those who are engaged in publishing the glad tidings of salvation in heathen and barbarous climes.

July 28, 1840.—At nine, A.M. we found ourselves abreast Kandava, the last island of the Feejee group. It is large, with high mountains, and has varied, but beautiful scenery. As the circumstances of this island were somewhat peculiar, I requested the Rev. David Cargill to go with me, and visit the people. They were reported to have cut off two boats' crews lately; and the American squadron had taken a great Chief, of commanding influence in that land, and made him their prisoner, for sacrificing so many of their countrymen. The brother of the King of Rewa had also said, that they were determined to seize on the first ship that touched on their coast. All this suggested the propriety of our moving with caution. Accordingly, we lowered the boat, and Mr. Cargill and myself set out, with two seamen and a Fejeean, whom Mr. Cargill had brought to take care of his children, and a Tonguese. When we approached the shore, about five miles from the ship, we saw two or three natives, each with a spear in one hand, and a club in the other. Immediately on our approach to the coral reef, their number multiplied with great rapidity, all armed with muskets, spears, clubs, bows, arrows, &c. Mr. Cargill told them who I was, and they handed us from the boat on the coral. We directed our seamen to pull off immediately, to prevent their obtaining possession of the boat; and they took Mr. Cargill in one direction, and myself in another, two men holding me by the hand, while I stepped now on coral, then up to the middle in water; and having travelled in this style five or six hundred yards, until there was a sandy bottom, one of them took me on his back, and soon landed me on the dry shore; when two boys rose out of the grass, each having a musket, and native powder-belt; they gave one to the man who had carried me, who girded his native powder-bag about him, and having the gun in one hand, and my hand in the other, we went to Mr. Cargill. The Chief was now made known to us, and requested us to accompany him. After conversing a little in English, we thought it best to show confidence, and follow him. He led us half a mile through the bush, accompanied by about a hundred men, with all kinds of weapons, to defend themselves. Feeling a little tired, I thought we had better rest, and immediately we squatted in a circle. Mr. Cargill then told the Chief who I was, named the islands and Kings that I had visited, and stated the reason of our touching at Kandava to be, our love to him and to his people. He said, that it was very good for a great Chief from another land to come in love to see him; and that it would be very good to have a Missionary there. I then tendered to him several little presents; and he immediately ordered some cocoa-nuts to be gathered for us. He pressed us moreover to go to his *korah*: we accordingly set out again, now ascending a mountain, and panting for breath—then down a declivity, steep and firing, until we reached an uninhabited house, which the Chief entered, and we followed. It was soon filled, and we again talked about our great business, to which they listened with evident interest. In the course of conversation, a tall man entered with a musket, walked through the circle, and sat at my back—a position which I should not have chosen for him. The Chief had ordered yams to be boiled for us, but we could not stay; and, after purchasing a few baskets, that I might show my family their workmanship, we returned a mile and a half to the boat, the tall man with his gun walking arm in arm with me. We had some difficulty in wading through coral reefs to the boat, but through mercy escaped an entire immersion.

## SUPERSTITIONS AND CRUELITIES OF THE FEJEEANS.

ONE poor man at Rewa, (says Mr. Waterhouse,) while bathing, had both arms bitten off by a shark; and thinking he was rendered useless to society, they proposed to strangle him. He appealed against their decision, saying, "The shark has not taken my eyes, and I can serve the King as a watchman." The appeal was successful, and the maimed man watches the King's premises.

There are, as in the Tonga islands, very few men without having a little finger cut off, as an offering to their gods. I saw one little boy with his arm in a sling; the little finger had just been cut off, as an offering, and the poor fellow seemed delighted with the fact. The children are warriors from their youth, and are amazingly expert with the spear, the bow and arrow, &c. They usually practise with their weapons on the children of those who are taken in war. A little boy or girl is placed at a distance, and they cast spears or arrows till he is dead.

For certain crimes, the arm of a man has been cut off by the elbow-joint, then to the shoulder; afterwards, one leg to the knee, then higher; the limbs have then been eaten in the presence of the living trunk and head; and finally, the head has been cut off.

About eight months ago, twenty bodies killed in war were taken, and, in front of our premises at Rewa, were divided among the inhabitants to be eaten; one was a fine young woman, in a state of pregnancy!

One of the King's brothers at Rewa died lately. Two of his wives were strangled, to accompany him to the world of spirits! One was a very fine young woman, who went to the King, and said, "Show love to me, and let me be strangled." He said, "Very well; go and wash." She went to the river and washed herself, put on a new native dress, and, with scented oil on her body, returned to the King, where all her relatives were. She kissed each of them, and bade them farewell. Some wished to save her; but her brother said, if she did not die, he would never own her as a sister. Immediately, a large rope was put round her neck, with two knots, one on each side the windpipe; ten strong men pulled, five on each side, while a woman closed her mouth and nose, to prevent breathing. She was soon dead, and her body was placed on a clean mat, and interred with the Chief and his other wife, in the presence of Messrs. Cargill and Jaggar.

At Somosomo, a few months ago, thirteen women were strangled outside the fence where the Missionaries reside: they of course remonstrated, till their own lives were in danger. It is thought, however, that, though in that instance they could not succeed, their interference will prevent further acts of barbarity and murder.

## CHINA.

At the meeting of the Bible Society in London, on the 5th May last, Dr. PARKER, American Missionary to China, thus addressed that vast assembly:—

"It is with no ordinary emotions that I appear before you. When, seven years since, I bade, as I supposed, a long farewell to my native home, there was not the remotest expectation in my mind that I should ever again meet a Christian assembly in a Christian land. But, in the providence of God, I have lately been permitted to revisit my native country; in my voyage from whence, as I approached these Christian shores, often did the fervent desire of my heart rise to God, that if permitted, on any occasion like the present, to lift up my voice in behalf of the Heathen, I might do it in such a manner as that the Heathen, either now or hereafter, should have no reason to reproach me. But little did I expect that the very first occasion on which these desires should be gratified, would be the present important meeting. I expected to have met with a friend and fellow-labourer here, Mr. Cookman, with whom I was permitted to co-operate, on a like occasion, on the other side the Atlantic, and from whom I parted with the fond hope of meeting him this day. But I fear that those waves which were to me the highway of the nations, have been to him a watery grave."

\* Mr. Cookman was a passenger in the *President*.

"My brother from France, Mr. Monod, has bespoken the co-operation of this Society in behalf of France. I most earnestly bespeak the same on behalf of the millions in China. There is no country in the world to which the efforts of this Society are so peculiarly adapted as China. If the official Government has communications to make to the people of that country, they must be made through the medium of the press. During the recent struggle, the correspondence between the officers of the Chinese Empire and the British, was exhibited, in the form of an edict, in front of the Functionary's office; but it was presently stereotyped, and hundreds and thousands were circulated in the course of a few hours. China comprises a population of about 360,000,000; and oh, when the word of God shall be circulated for the benefit of a population of such an immense amount, what glorious effects may not be expected! Recently, before leaving China, I heard that the supply of bibles in the Chinese language was nearly exhausted; and if we do not look to this Society, to whom can we look to grant the requisite supply? Allusion has been made to the Providence which has put into the power of this Christian country an island in the Chinese seas. To that island many of the inhabitants of China will naturally flock, in the prosecution of their commercial transactions; and under the protection of our authority in the island of Hong Kong, the Chinese can receive and possess the Book which contains the word of God, without feeling that it is a dear book to them—a book which may cost them their lives. There is now the best reason for hoping that the time is come, when that blessed word will make its way to the whole empire of China.

## INDIA.

THE Rev. Mr. SCOTT, the Missionary, thus expostulates respecting Hindustan:—

"Increase your exertions to demolish the strong holds of idolatry. Ere long they must fall throughout the world. In India they will assuredly fall. For this conviction we have the "sure word of prophecy," and apart from prophecy, the "signs of the times" indicate the fall of Satan, and the reign of Christ. Every day, idolatry is losing its hold—exertions are increasing—labourers are becoming more numerous—schools and scholars are multiplying—English opinions, improvements, and knowledge are spreading abroad—the Government is slowly withdrawing its support from idolatry, and all things are hastening, even in the opinion of the Hindoos themselves, to the fulfilment of that sagacious prophecy of their sacred books, that "Hindooism will ultimately vanish away, and the people finally become apostate from the religion of their fathers." Whoever has resided in India, even for as short a time as I have, can hardly fail to have his convictions of this truth firmly established.

"The war with China, in its consequences, will add another illustration to the truth that even the wicked designs of men are overruled by God for good. The probability is, that a portion of territory will be ceded to the English for their residence. Then China will be "open," and the Gospel will not be long in following. These, among many others, are encouraging prospects; and we do well to look at them, that we may admire the ways of God, and cheer ourselves in our labours. We may not live to see the final triumphs of the Gospel in all lands; but we know that it will take place, and happy shall we be, if we have had some part, however small, in the instrumentality of so glorious a result."

THE CHURCH.—In addition to the munificent donation of her Majesty the Queen Dowager, of £2,000 to "The Colonial Bishops' Fund," we have been informed that her Majesty, hearing of the exhausted state of the funds of the Incorporated Society for promoting the Enlargement, Building, and Repairing of Churches and Chapels, has most graciously announced her intention of contributing to that Society the liberal donation of £5,000.

THE remains of the two murdered Missionaries, the Rev. Messrs. Williams and Harris, were recovered by Capt. Croker, of H. M. S. *Favourite*, in Feb., 1840, at Nepati Bay, island of Erromango.