

bation and favor of Him who has made it a part of our holy religion, to "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."—If I have not erred much more seriously than I am willing to suppose, I am warranted, from a survey of our financial and statistical returns to state, that if all our congregations were to contribute in proportion to their membership as the people of Mahou and Port Hood have done and are engaged to do for the current year for the purpose alone of Home Missions, (including supply for themselves) Foreign Mission, and annuity to their late Pastor, Rev. Mr. Miller, not only would the sal-

ary of all our ministers be fully paid, but we might double our expenditures in all the schemes of the Church and have a large surplus fund for stipend-supplementing in weak congregations, and for church building purposes in remote localities.—And yet these engagements do not exceed the sum of sixty pounds. If these people are not doing too much for the maintenance of religion, surely there must be very many in our Church, that are doing too little. Let their zeal provoke very many, and secure for them the sympathy and assistance of their brethren in the Church.

JAMES WADDELL.

## Miscellaneous.

### POLYNESIA.

The group called "Hervey Islands" lies about seven degrees south-west of Tahite. The missionaries of the London Society, in Raratonga, one of these islands, have long had their eye on a neighboring cluster of islands, the savage character of whose inhabitants, and other obstacles, for a time defied all attempts to get access to them.

At length, however, their prayers have been answered, and one of these islands (Manaiiki) has through the instrumentality of teachers from Raratonga, entirely renounced idolatry, and the people placed themselves under christian instruction. Mr. Pitman, under date Raratonga, 11th November last, notices the joy with which, after so many years' fruitless attempts to convey to this island the gospel of Christ, they had at length succeeded in landing two native teachers upon it. From one of these teachers he had a letter of date August 1850, stating that the natives had renounced idolatry, and burnt their gods; that at that time they were all under instruction, both adults and children, and had already made considerable progress. They had been committing a catechism to memory. A place of worship had been erected, and the Gospel preached to them, and the Sabbath regarded. From a scarcity of provisions which arose, he and the people had emigrated to another island, forty-five miles distant; the chiefs of which did not readily give up their gods, but at length yielded through the representations of those chiefs who had embraced Christianity. And now the standard of the cross

is erected there also, and the way of salvation through Christ made known.—There are still groups of islands beyond, yet unvisited by christian teachers, and the missionaries will not rest satisfied till they have reached them. Tairi, the native brother at Manaiiki, entreats the earnest prayers of the churches on their behalf, that the word of God may take deep root.

In reference to Raratonga itself, it may be noticed that the Rev. A. Buzacott, missionary from that island, who has been for some time in this country for his health, has just sailed by the John Williams on his return, bearing with him 5090 copies of the entire Scriptures in the Rarotongan language. In a letter to the committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, he notices that it was only in 1822 that the island was discovered; its inhabitants being then fiercely savage, and canalatism prevailing among them to a fearful extent. Native teachers, who were then landed, succeeded, by the Divine blessing, in inducing the whole island to cast away their gods. The missionaries joined them in 1827. A written language was formed, and the first communication in it which passed between the missionaries, excited among the natives the greatest wonder; they would accompany the bearer of a note passing between one station and another, and during the reading of it, try with eagerness to discover what it said.—Now education is almost universal; a great number of the adults can read, and all the children, not laboring under any incapacity. The work of translating the Scriptures was begun with some of the books