

gregationalist Churches of New England, and the Presbyterians of the Middle and Southern States. In the year 1809, a youth named Obookiah, a native of Hawaii, was induced to take passage in an American ship and landed at New Haven in Connecticut. The college buildings there attracted his attention, and, learning their object, he was found one day weeping on the threshold because there was no one to instruct *him*. Kind friends took the lad by the hand and cared for him. Meanwhile other youths were found from the Sandwich Islands and other foreign parts in such numbers as to suggest the establishment of a mission school or college, which was opened in 1816 with twelve pupils, of whom seven were from the Sandwich Islands. The object of the school was the education of heathen youths with a view to sending them back to their own countries as school-masters, missionaries, physicians, skilled artizans, &c. Obookiah was among the first pupils, but he died before he had completed his education. Chiefly through him, however, a very general interest had been awakened in regard to his countrymen, and a mission to the Sandwich Islands was resolved upon. So that although the school itself was not very long-lived it could not be called a failure, since it gave rise to this mission.

It has often been mentioned as a remarkable fact in the history of missions that the Sandwich Islanders had abolished idolatry before christian missionaries were sent to them and thus, in some respects, answered the condition foretold in prophecy, Isaiah 42: 4, "and the isles shall wait for his law." In a sense this was true, but it is to be noted that this strange event resulted from no religious conviction whatever, but rather from a desire to be rid of every kind of religious restraint upon the lusts and passions of a debased and sensual people. Yet was it overruled by Providence for their speedy conversion.

The mission to the Sandwich Islands was commenced on the 4th April, 1820, when the brig "*Thaddeus*" reached Hawaii with the first detachment of missionaries, consisting of the Revds. Hiram Bingham and Asa Thurston, from the Andover Theological Seminary, ordained to this work; Dr. Holman a physician; two school-masters, a printer, and a farmer—

all married men. The first news that greeted their arrival was the death of the old king, and "that his successor had renounced the national superstitions, destroyed the idols, burned the temples, abolished the priesthood, put an end to human sacrifices; that peace prevailed, and that the nation, without a religion, was waiting for the law of Jehovah." The young king was friendly towards the missionaries but was in no haste to come under the restraints of the new religion; however, he consented that they should occupy stations on three of the principal Islands. The missionaries began by reducing the language of the natives to a written form—their alphabet containing only twelve letters—five vowels and seven consonants. In 1822, the time printing press came into use. Since that not less than one hundred and fifty works have been printed in the Hawaiian language, covering more than two hundred and twenty millions of pages. They include three editions of the Bible and four editions of the New Testament—more than twenty thousand of the former and thirty thousand of the latter. Upwards of a hundred thousand hymn books have been printed, latterly with tunes annexed; and many editions of the Catechism. Besides a comprehensive series of School-books, a number of standard works on Theology, Church History and Science; biographical memoirs of distinguished natives and missionaries; sketches of Hawaiian history and "*Antiquities of the Islands by Hawaiians.*"

Before long attempts were made by unfriendly foreigners to throw suspicion on the missionaries and their work, but Providence interposed on their behalf. Mr. Ellis, the same prudent English Missionary who afterwards became so useful in Madagascar, accompanied a party of native missionaries from the Society Islands who had been sent to visit the Marquesas. On their way they stopped here, and Mr. Ellis' familiarity with the language proved of immense service to the mission. The first reinforcement of the mission arrived in the spring of 1823. It consisted of three ministers, two licentiates, a secular superintendent for the mission, and three Hawaiians from the Foreign Mission School. By this time the earlier missionaries were able to preach, and Mr. Ellis had translated and circulated a collection of