

tirely from my sight forever. No lives were lost; the Lord was very merciful in sparing all without any accident. I need not, dear sir, give you any more particulars, as you will have all details in the protest which accompanies this letter. I must not forget to mention the kindness shown to us by *Okati*, the teacher, and the natives of *Puka-puka* in supplying our daily wants with taro, coconuts and fish. During our stay of three weeks on their island, *J. C. Williams, Esq., H. B. M. Consul*, kindly sent to the islanders, in the name of the Queen of England, a quantity of useful articles of clothing, as an acknowledgment for their kindness to us, and also to encourage them in acts of kindness to any that may be shipwrecked in the future.

Yours truly,

(Signed) "W. H. WILLIAMS."

Rev. Dr. Tidman.

COURSE OF THE "JOHN WILLIAMS"
PREVIOUS TO HER SHIPWRECK.

Our readers will be interested to know the voyage of the Missionary barque immediately preceding her visit to the fatal island where she finished her course; and this is described by the Rev Henry Boyle, who has lived and laboured in the island of Aitutaki for more than six-and-twenty years. He writes as follows:—

"We arrived Atutaki, in the missionary ship, only to take leave, for a short season, of my beloved wife and daughter, and our warmly loving people. They were prepared to bid them God speed. After supplying the ship with everything the captain informed them he needed, and in such abundance, that he could not take all, we prepared to leave. The Aitutakian youth, who had long maintained a steady devotion to the interests of the 'John Williams,' now manifested a stronger regard as they were about to commit their missionary to it, as a home for several months. From fifty to sixty young men—the flower of our Church—having bid us an affectionate farewell, descended into their whale-boat. Spontaneously the captain, officers, and crew, with about sixty natives of the Penrhyn Islands, crowded the quarter-deck of the 'John Williams,' and gave these young men nine British cheers, which the Aitutakians heartily returned.

"We sailed pleasantly forward for one week, and arrived at the Penrhyn Islands. Here we had on former occasions six teachers and flourishing villages. Uniting the whole, they numbered over one thousand. Now we found only sixty of the original owners of the soil and one teacher; the others, with five of their teachers, had been scattered, and most of them were dead, chiefly by the cruel work of the Callao slavers, just before our arrival.

"We completed our work at the above-mentioned islands, and at our stations on Manihiki, where, in every social and moral point of view, decided improvements on former years, in industry and Christian civilization, was manifest. New chapels and schools had risen up—very refreshing to look upon—and the clothing and courteous demeanour of the natives marked the effect of Gospel influence.

On the 11th May, afternoon, we left Manihiki, after very pleasant engagements with the teachers and scholars and members of religious classes. We now began to experience our first unpleasant weather, unusual in these latitudes, and especially at this season of the year. In a gale of wind we brought up near to a very dangerous rock, which throws up heavy breakers, about twenty-one miles from Danger Island.

"On the 16th May we sighted Danger Island. It was early dawn, and with joyous emotions, ere evening we hoped to be in their midst, receiving their welcome greetings and distributing amongst them the ample gifts we had brought from the Christians at Aitutaki to their less favoured brethren at Puka-puka. The winds, currents, and complex character of the reefs, to our great disappointment, revented our having intercourse with the island that day—not on account of our distance, for we were very near, but we had found the natives of all these low coral islands very shy in recognizing us. We learned, however, that they had suffered so much from the Peruvian slavers and their barbarous outrages, that we ceased to wonder at their reluctance to come out to sea. Disappointed, both in not getting on shore, as we so confidently hoped, and their not coming out to us, we were left to uncertainty as to whether they knew us; so, after our usual domestic worship, the captain called us upon deck to witness the exhibition of blue lights and rockets, in order to facilitate our work of the coming day.—Our signals were replied to by beacon fires along the shore, and especially the landing place, until near midnight, and we all retired very happily to our respective places of repose for the night; but it was destined to be a night of horror, never to be forgotten—the wreck of the noble ship, the 'John Williams.'

"It was early on the morning of the 17th of May, that jubilant month with the Churches at home, when we were called out of our profound slumber by a voice exclaiming, 'Mr. Røyle, get up and pray to God for the 'John Williams;'' she is just upon the reef. Affrighted, I started from my sleeping place, hardly knowing what I did, but fully conscious of the reality and extent of our danger, by the height to which our fated vessel was raised on the surging billows, and the fearful roar of the breaking