

the Protestant Episcopal Church, Methodist Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church, American Baptist Missionary Union, Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

#### ISLANDS OF THE SEA.

—Rev. A. W. Murray, of Samoa, died some months since. For years he was the honored father of Presbyterian missions. He was the trusted friend of Geddie. He was eighty-one years old. Of Scottish birth, he was ordained in 1835, and reached Samoa in 1836, where he prosecuted the glorious enterprise begun by John Williams. For forty years he labored in the isles of the Pacific.

—The Australasian Methodist Conference has charge of the Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, New Britain, and New Guinea missions. It is a striking fact that the number of church members in Fiji, 30,264, is about thrice as many as the number connected with the same body in New South Wales and Queensland. The Fiji Christians have not only paid the stipends of 300 village teachers, but have given more than \$5000 during the year to the cause of foreign missions. Three teachers from Rewa in Fiji have volunteered to become missionaries to New Guinea.

—Let us look at the figures for Fiji more in detail, for there is nothing to match them in the entire range of missionary history; and the high honor was conferred upon the English Wesleyans of transforming these vilest and most brutal of all savages upon the face of the earth. On those islands are found 969 churches (buildings) and 354 other preaching-places, 11 English missionaries, 71 native ministers, 1975 local preachers, 3315 class-leaders, 30,264 full members, and 5351 on trial; 1724 Sunday-schools, with 2724 teachers and 38,918 scholars, 1976 day schools with 39,364 pupils, and attendants upon public worship 102,451, which number includes almost the entire population of the islands! The chief grounds for

solicitude relate to the spiritual crudeness of many of the genuine converts; the persistent efforts of Romish priests to beguile the people, though thus far without much success; and, above all, the decline of the population, the deaths continually outnumbering the births.

—The future of Hawaii is far from bright, either upon the financial, the political, or the religious side. The sugar industry is paralyzed, there is trouble between rulers and people, while the old-time heathenism, and other forces which make for unrighteousness, are unpleasantly active. It is said that in a population of 90,000 there are 55,000 foreigners.

—The wife of the Rev. J. G. Paton, the missionary to the New Hebrides, once wrote home that the wonderful transfiguration of a New Hebridean savage, even in the expression of his face, after he has become a Christian, is worth laboring a lifetime to witness.

—The Presbyterian missionaries in the New Hebrides have decided to forward a protest to Lord Knutsford, Colonial Secretary in London, against the proposed renewal of the importation of Kanaka labor into Queensland.

—Concerning the recent mission of Dr. Paton to Washington, to endeavor to induce our Government to help in suppressing the traffic in fire-arms, intoxicating liquors, and opium in the New Hebrides and other Pacific islands, good Dr. Cuyler overflows in righteous wrath in the New York *Evangelist* in this fashion: "Just think of it! A lot of converted cannibals begging a Christian government not to send them any more muskets and rum! Verily, the Christianity of our own land does need Christianizing at the very core. Ships sail from American ports with missionaries as passengers to Africa, and with thousands of gallons of rum in their cargo; *heaven goes in the cabin, and hell goes in the ship's hold!* How long will it take us to convert the heathen in this style?"