

Missionary Intelligence.

THE LAST BATTLE IN TAHITI.

(From the Edinburgh Children's Missionary Newspaper.)

In my paper on Tahiti last month, I told you about a battle that was fought there a little time ago between the French and the natives, and it has taken back my thoughts to a battle that was fought there about thirty years ago, and which led to the entire overthrow of idolatry, and the establishment of Christianity throughout the island. I have called it above, the Last Battle in Tahiti, and shall now take up a little space in giving you an account of it.

I think I have told you before, that the first place to which the London Missionary Society sent its missionaries, was the Island of Tahiti, in the South Seas. There they laboured for about sixteen years without seeing much fruit; but by the year 1815, a goodly number were converted to Christianity, amongst whom were the King and Queen, and several of the leading people in the nation. The numbers who now embraced the new religion, and the power they possessed in the island, excited the jealousy of the remaining idolaters, who resolved upon their entire destruction. They laid a wicked plan by which all of the chief Christian leaders would be at once got rid of, and themselves be the masters of the island. Everything was made ready. All the Christians were to be attacked in one night while off their guard; their property plundered, and themselves murdered on the spot. So secretly was the whole contrived, that up to within a few hours of the time of the intended massacre, none of the Christians had the least idea of it. Notice, however, was then given of it, but it was almost too late for the Christians to escape. They assembled that evening to worship near the shore, when learning the danger they were in, they at once prepared to fly. Had all the parties of their enemies arrived at the time appointed, this would have been impossible; but as they did not, it gave them a little time in which to try to make good their retreat. Their boats were lying on the beach; they were instantly launched, and hastily collecting what little things they could, they embarked soon after sunset, and reached the neighbouring island Eimeo in safety the following morning.

Their enemies reached the shore soon after they had left it, and finding their prey escaped, they began to quarrel amongst themselves, a battle ensued, and for some time a cruel war was carried on throughout the island. Many of those who could not bear the contentions fled to Eimeo, and though they were not Christians, were kindly treated by the refugees residing there.

At last offers of peace were sent by the Pagan chiefs from Tahiti, and the king and his people invited to return, and again