

xxxix. 1. Ps. civ. 18. *Scape-goat.* In (Lev. xvi. 26.) we have an interesting account of the manner in which goats were employed under the Jewish law to prefigure the atoning sacrifice of Christ. It was on the great day of atonement. Two goats were taken; one to be presented as a sin-offering, and the other to stand while the priest laid his hands upon its head, and confessed over it the sins of the people; after which it was led or sent away into the wilderness; thus representing the taking or bearing away of guilt.

### The First Missionary Meeting in the South Seas.\*

In the year 1797, some missionaries from England landed on the Island of Tahiti. They had heard of the beauty of its scenery, and the salubrity of its climate; of the natural richness of its soil, and of the novel and peculiar customs of its people; and they longed to convey to them the inestimable blessings which the Gospel bestows. They toiled on for many a long year before they reaped any fruit from their labor. The reaping time, however, did come. The seed which had been cast into this soil, amidst so much suffering, and watered with so many tears, at length shot forth, and produced a rich harvest. God was "not unrighteous to forget their work of faith and labor of love." The idols of Tahiti were utterly abolished, and Christianity was embraced by the greater portion of the inhabitants.

The missionaries impressed on the minds of the converts the principle taught by the Scriptures, that those who are favored with the Gospel should also endeavor to diffuse its blessings; and it was proposed to do this by the formation of a Missionary Society. The plan was laid before the king, Pomaré, who readily approved of it. Several of the leading chiefs were also consulted; they, too, joined in the proposal.

One day the king accosted a chief of the name of Auna. "Auna," said he, "do you think you could collect five bamboo-canes of oil in a year?" He answered "Yes;" and the king said, "Do you think you could appropriate so much

towards sending the Word of God to the heathen?" Again he answered in the affirmative; the king asked again, "Do you think those who value the Gospel would think it a great labor to collect so much yearly for this purpose?" Auna answered that he did not think they would,— "Then," said the king, "think about it and perhaps we can have a combination, or society, for this purpose."

The missionaries and chiefs met the king, to draw up the principles of the Society and the rules for its regulation. The 13th of May, 1818, was the day appointed for its establishment, and a delightful day it proved.

At sunrise, prayer meetings were held. There was a service in English in the forenoon; but in the afternoon the services were entirely in Tahitian. Long before the appointed hour, three o'clock, the chapel was crowded, and yet the greater portion of the congregation were outside. It was, therefore, proposed to adjourn to a beautiful grove, a short distance off, and thither the natives repaired. It was an interesting sight. Thousands were there from all parts, dressed in their gayest attire. Nature seemed to wear the aspect of a holiday as well as the vast assemblage. The spreading canopy of leaves above sheltered them from the rays of the sun, and a gentle breeze from the ocean swept softly by, conveying, as it were, kind and joyous looks and thoughts and words from one to another. Near a large cocoa-nut tree there was a sort of rustic stand on which Mr. Nott took his station. Just in front of him sat the king, in a large arm-chair provided for the occasion, supported on either side by various chiefs and great men of the islands. The king wore a fine yellow tiputa, stamped on the part which covered his left breast with a rich scarlet flower, instead of a star. The services commenced with singing, a solemn prayer was offered, and Mr. Nott delivered a short and appropriate discourse.— Pomaré then stood up, and addressing his subjects around him, proposed the formation of a Missionary Society. He began by referring them back to the ages that were past, and to the system of false religion by which they had been so long enslaved, reminding them very feelingly of the rigid exactions imposed in the name of their imaginary gods,—for they were but pieces of wood or cocoa-nut husk. He then alluded to the toil they endured, and the zeal and diligence so often manifested

\* From an interesting little book of this title, published by Samuel Taitoa Williams, London. Price One Penny.