

TOLERATION IN THE "CAROLINES."

About a dozen years ago, Spain withdrew religious toleration in the Carolines, and banished the missionaries of the American Board from their station on the island of Ponape. During the past year these islands have been transferred to Germany. The German Embassy at Washington has given assurance of friendliness to mission work, and the way has thus been opened for the return of the missionaries. The former work proved not in vain. Word comes from Ponape of 360 Christians who remained faithful amid all that the Spanish priests and soldiers could do, and will gladly welcome the coming again of those who taught them the way of life.

WHO SHALL RULE INDIA?

A striking utterance on this point is from the organ of the followers of Keshub Kunder Sen to its native readers in India. Such testimony from the leaders of a non-Christian sect is very encouraging to our mission work, when it shows how Christianity compels acknowledgment from the heathen, both as to its character and its results, in the following words:

"It is not the glittering bayonet . . . which can keep our people loyal. No. None of these can hold India in subjection. . . . If you wish to secure the attachment and allegiance of India, it must be through spiritual influence and moral suasion.

And such indeed has been the case in India. You cannot deny that your hearts have been touched, conquered, and subjugated by a superior power. That power—need I tell you—is Christ. It is Christ who rules British India, and not the British Government. England has sent out a tremendous moral force in the life and character of that mighty prophet, to conquer and hold this vast empire. None but Jesus ever deserved this bright, this precious diadem, India, and Jesus shall have it."

THE MELANESIAN MISSION.

It was founded in 1849, a year after the Geddies were settled in Aneityum, by Bishop Selwyn, who was ever after a devoted friend of Mr. Geddie's. Melanesia—meaning "black islands," as "Polynesia" means "many islands,"—is a general name given to the series of groups extending for some 3,500 miles from New Guinea to New Caledonia, and peopled for the most part by the Papuan or black races. The New Hebrides is a small group in Melanesia.

The Mission Staff of the Melanesian Mission now consists of Bishop Cecil Wilson and twelve English clergymen, two English laymen, twelve native clergy, four hundred native teachers, and seven English ladies. There are 170 Mission Stations in 26 islands. Christianity is established in

many of the Islands, but large numbers are still heathen. There are 12,000 baptized Christians in Melanesia, and over 12,000 more people under instruction. Over 1,000 persons are baptized annually. St. Barnabas College, Norfolk Island, is preparing 160 boys and 50 girls to become teachers, and at St. Luke's, Siota, Solomon Island, there are 70 scholars.

THIRTY YEARS IN NEW GUINEA.

It is less than thirty years ago since the first English missionaries landed on the shores of New Guinea.

A few years before that time missionary work had been begun in the north of the island by a Dutch Society, and even earlier a German Society had established some stations. But these first efforts had met with very little success, and it was left for the London Missionary Society to have the honor of making the first serious attack on the forces of heathenism and cannibalism in New Guinea.

It was in the year 1870 that the Directors of the London Missionary Society decided to add New Guinea to their field of labor. The missionary whom they selected for the important task of beginning the work in that island was the Rev. S. MacFarlane, who still serves the Society frequently at home, though he retired from active service in 1887. Mr. MacFarlane was at that time stationed on the little island of Lifu, in the Loyalty Group, and was their nearest missionary to New Guinea, though even he was more than a thousand miles away.

From the very first the Directors hoped to be able to evangelize New Guinea by means of native Christians from other islands in the South Seas, and their hopes have been abundantly fulfilled during all these thirty years.

When Mr. MacFarlane asked his students at Lifu whether any of them would volunteer for this dangerous new work, every one of them sprang forward and asked to be sent. And from that day to this there has been no lack of volunteers for New Guinea.

From Samoa and Mangaia and other islands Christian men and women have gone forth year by year to take their part in winning this great island for Christ. Many of them have laid down their lives for the sake of the Gospel, and in the roll-call of the Church's martyrs these South Sea preachers and teachers must be given a high place.

The successes of the last thirty years in New Guinea have been great. Mr. Chalmers says that he knows of no mission anywhere that can compare with it for results. But the successes of the next thirty years will be greater still, by God's blessing, and New Guinea shall be added to the long list of Christian Islands in the South Seas.—*News From Afar.*