

" Health to you all. I make known to you that our ship of war (an English ship) is about to leave ; it has been sent for by the admiral to return to Oahu. There is here a small ship of war to watch over us ; another is coming. Do not listen to the men who will pain you by reporting that we shall not be assisted. Britain will not cast us off. Let our conduct be good, and wait until the despatches arrive.

" This is my word to you. Do not on any account cause evil to grow. By no means ill-treat the Frenchmen. Have great patience. Take me for a pattern, and follow me ; and let all of us pray very earnestly to God that he may deliver us from our trials, as he formerly did Hezekiah—Peace be with you all.—POMARE."

When the French heard that she had written this letter, they declared that it was treason against France, and prepared to make Pomare a prisoner. Not knowing what to do, she fled for safety on board an English vessel lying in the harbour, and sought protection there against her oppressors. The French were greatly enraged, and at once sent word to the English commander, that if Pomare dared to set her foot again upon Tahiti, or any other of the Society Islands, she should directly be taken prisoner. The principal chiefs, who refused to submit to France, were then taken prisoners, and carried on board the French vessel ; and Mr. Pritchard, and his wife and children, were also seized and put in prison. Here he lay for twenty-one days, but then obtained his liberty, with three of his children ; the others he was forced to leave with his wife in the hands of the French, and has arrived in this country.* After Mr. Pritchard left, the French oppressed the people with still greater cruelty, and forced on by their oppressions, they at last flew to arms, and our latest news gives a painful account of a desperate battle that was fought on the 23d of April 1844. The French landed about 800 men, and the Tahitians assembled about 1000. The French had plenty of guns and ammunition, but the natives had chiefly only their long spears, but a few, being provided with fire arms. The place in which the Tahitians were encamped was chosen with great skill, and might have proved a most safe refuge, had not a wicked young man, a son of one of the Missionaries, led the French by a secret path to a rising ground on which to place their cannon. The battle began with great fury, but the French are the losers, and the Tahitians are the victors. About 80 natives and 120 French were left dead upon the field. All the Missionaries have left the island, and it was said the French governor would demand the Queen of the English, with whom she was still residing. The Tahitians are determined to come to no terms with France, and it is hard to say what is likely to be the end. Let us all pray that good may come out of this evil.

(To be Continued.)

* Since writing the above, Mrs. Pritchard and children have also come to England.