

not quite black, their features are plain, they have crisp hair of different shades, but never smooth or glossy. Their language is quite different from the Malay, and on almost every island inhabited by this race a different dialect is spoken.

When these island groups were first discovered the inhabitants were all degraded savages, quarrelling with and devouring one another, but they have since become the scene of some of the greatest triumphs of the Gospel and the story of Mission work among them is deeply interesting. It begins with the formation of the great missionary Society known as the London Missionary Society, which was formed in 1795, and consists of Christians of various denominations, who unite together to send the Gospel to the heathen. Shortly before its formation Captain Cook, who had been sent out by the British Government to explore the Pacific, had published a pleasing account of his voyages, in which the beauty and fertility of the newly-discovered islands were described as forming a striking contrast to the miserable and degraded condition of their inhabitants, and the information furnished by this book and the interest it excited in England, induced the Society to begin its work, by sending a band of missionaries to settle on some of these islands, and try to teach the poor heathen the way of salvation through Jesus.

QUESTIONS : What part of the world is to be the subject of our missionary studies this year ? What name is given to the whole of these islands, and into what three parts are they divided ? Give some reasons why these islands should be better known ? How do the larger ones seem to have been formed ? Of what tiny creatures are the smaller ones the work ? Describe their mode of work and how the bare rock is gradually changed into a fertile island ? Name and describe the races that inhabit these islands, first the origin, appearance, language etc. of the Malay Polynesian, second of the Papuan. In what condition were these islanders when first discovered by Europeans ? Has Mission work among them been successful ? By what Missionary Society was it first begun and when was this Society organized ? What induced the London Missionary Society to adopt the islands of the South Pacific as their first mission field ?