

## MISSIONARY TIDINGS.

## DEATH OF TWO MISSIONARIES, MESSRS. WILLIAMS AND HARRIS.

The excellent missionary, John Williams, of the London Missionary Society is now no more. He and a brother missionary, Mr. Harris, were slain by the savages of Arramanga, one of the islands called the New Hebrides, a group to the east of New Holland, on the 20th November last. The particulars of this melancholy event, we copy from the *Philadelphia Presbyterian* :

We are indebted to a friend for the following particulars of this melancholy event.—They were printed in the form of a circular from the Secretary of the London Missionary Society, who states that he had received no direct intelligence, but had no doubt of its truth.

The missionary brig Camden arrived on Saturday from the Island of Arramanga, (South Seas.) By her, we regret to learn the melancholy death by violence, of the Rev. J. Williams, and Mr. Harris.

The following are the particulars :—“On the 19th of November, we had communication,” says our informant, “with the natives of Tanna, one of the New Hebrides. Finding them favorable to receive instruction from our teachers, we proceeded to the islands of Arramanga. The whole of the island is, without one exception, a complete iron bound coast, without the least appearance of culture. The natives are a barbarous race, quite different from those of other islands.

“Wednesday morning, 20th of November.—We sent the ship’s boat ashore, containing Mr. Williams (Missionary,) Mr. Cunningham (Vice Consul for the South Sea Islands,) Capt. Morgan, and Mr. Harris. Mr. Harris joined the Camden at Otaheite, for the purpose of proceeding to this port to take his passage to England, with the view of arranging his affairs there previous to returning to the Marquesas as a missionary.

“On the boat approaching the beach, we could distinctly see the natives were averse to holding any communication with us. Mr. Williams attempted to make them presents of cloth, trinkets, &c., for the purpose of gaining their esteem, but without effect. He now proposed giving up the idea of having any inter-

course with the island, and Mr. Harris asked permission to leave the boat for the purpose of making another attempt. He was followed at a short distance by Capt. Morgan, Mr. Cunningham, and Mr. Williams. When Mr. Cunningham reached the summit of the beach, he perceived Mr. Harris running down toward the boat, followed by a large party of natives, armed with spears, clubs, bows and arrows, and he fell the first victim. As soon as one knocked him down, the remainder of the party speared him through.

“When Mr. Cunningham came running to Mr. Williams, the latter turned and made for the boat, but unfortunately stopped to look a moment for Mr. Harris. He then made for the boat, and reached the water, but in the hurry stumbled and fell, when one of the natives immediately took advantage of the circumstance and struck him four blows on the head with a club. By this time Captain Morgan and Mr. Cunningham had gained the boat and pushed off. After Mr. Williams had fallen, another party of natives, numbering between fifteen and twenty, speared him through, although our informant thinks he was dead when they arrived.

“The children threw stones and missiles at the corpse. Neither of the bodies could be procured, though every effort was made for that purpose; but the natives made an attack on the parties remaining in the boat, and part of one of their arrows is to be seen sticking fast in the boat of the Camden. Captain Morgan finding it useless to remain any longer, as no hopes were entertained of getting an interview with the natives, or of procuring the bodies of the sufferers, immediately bore for Sydney direct.

“That the mission has sustained a great loss in the death of Mr. Williams, there can be no doubt; but that God will carry on the work of evangelizing the islands of the Pacific, there cannot be the least question. The missionaries and their friends ought to be, and doubtless are, prepared for catastrophes so mysterious as these.”

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Mr. Williams, during his late visit to England, published a narrative of missionary enterprises