

The service commenced by singing an appropriate hymn, after which the Rev. W. M. Statham read the Scriptures, and offered the introductory prayer. A second hymn having been sung, the Rev. W. Ellis, who commenced his labors as a Missionary in the Society Islands more than forty years since, described the degraded and barbarous condition of the people at that period, and represented the blessed change since effected in their social and religious condition, by the power of the gospel. He, however admonished the missionaries about to proceed to that group, against the indulgence of extravagant expectations as to their improved condition, reminding them that they would still find many of the influences of Paganism yet lingering among the natives which would demand the exercise of forbearance, watchfulness and prayer. Another hymn was then sung, and the Rev. Mr. Tidman, the Foreign Secretary, presented special prayer for God's protection and guidance to protect the Missionaries on their voyage, and in the future prosecution of their ministry in the several scenes of their appointed labour. The hymn commencing, "O Spirit of the living God," was then sung, and the Rev. James Hill, of Clapham, delivered to the Missionaries an address of great force and beauty, which included appropriate counsels and encouragements, both as to their personal character and the work in which they were to be engaged. The meeting was then briefly addressed by two Christian natives of the Island of Aitutaki, who are about to return home in the Missionary Ship. The Rev. Wm. Gill, formerly Missionary in the Island of Rarotonga, acting as interpreter. The concluding hymn, "Captain of thine enlisted host," having been sung, the service was closed by the Rev. John Nunn, of Haverstock Hill Chapel. The congregation, which filled the spacious chapel in every part, appeared deeply interested and affected by the service.—*Missionary Magazine and Chronicle for December.*

SAILING OF THE "JOHN WILLIAMS."—On Friday, the 23rd ult., the "John Williams" left the Port of London for her fifth extended voyage to the Islands of the Pacific.

The names of our friends who are passengers are as follows:—The Rev. J. L. GREEN and Mrs. G., appointed to the

Island of TAHAA; the Rev. GEORGE MORRIS and Mrs. M., to RAIA TEA; the Rev. J. W. SIMMONS and Mrs. S.; the Rev. W. G. LAWES and Mrs. L.; the Rev. P. G. BIRD and Mrs. B.; all appointed to SAMOA. The Rev. Mr. ELLENBERGER and Mrs. E., with their associate Miss MACKINTOSH, Agents of the Paris Missionary Society; two daughters of the Rev. W. ROSS; also the son of the Rev. R. T. GRIGOROSKI, and the son of Mr. J. N. CAMPBELL, Agents of the Society, proceed as passengers to the CARE of GOOD HOPE.

Our Missionary Brethren, with the Captain and Officers, will form a Church in the ship, and will enjoy during their voyage all the sacred privileges of Christian fellowship and Divine ordinances.

It is not yet five months since the "JOHN WILLIAMS" arrived in England; she now leaves our shores in a state of thorough reparation and outfit and under circumstances the most auspicious. May all the friends of the Society interested in her noble enterprise, follow her with their prayers that, as in former years, the God of the seas may guide and direct her course—protect her amidst the perils of the deep—and having made her the means of yet more widely extending the triumphs of the Saviour in Polynesia, bring her home again at the appointed time in safety and in peace.—*Ibid.*

JUVENILE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE REPAIRS AND OUTFIT OF THE JOHN WILLIAMS.—The Directors of the Society are truly rejoiced in being able to announce that their appeal to their young friends for the funds expended in the thorough repair and outfit of the Missionary Ship, has been rendered with that promptitude and cheerfulness which render their offerings doubly acceptable. Contributions exceeding THREE THOUSAND POUNDS have already been announced, and additional sums may yet be expected. The appeal has not only secured this pecuniary benefit, but the Directors have reason to hope that it has awakened in the minds of many of their young friends feelings of deeper interest in the great object to which the Missionary ship is devoted, and which they trust will produce a yet enlarged and permanent devotion to the cause of the Saviour and the salvation of the world.—*Ibid.*