

In 1835, when as yet the missions had been established barely fifteen years, the American Board felt their work to be fast drawing toward its close. They looked forward to the Christianization of these islands as a glorious example and proof of the Gospel's power and as the greatest incentive to missionary zeal, but they dared not look for this result in less than a half century.

In hope to hasten this consummation, it was determined to concentrate efforts for a time upon this field, and in 1836 thirty-two additional laborers were sent out, and had scarce been distributed over the islands and begun to use the strange dialect, when a wave of spiritual influence, like the billows of the sea, swept over the islands, bore before it all traces of idols and idol temples, and left the Hawaiian people virtually cleansed of their pagan superstitions.

The first sound of its approach was heard in the general meetings of the missionaries in 1836-37, in resolute, importunate pleading for the conversion not of these islands only, but of the whole world; and a printed appeal to the churches of the United States was sent forth from the mission press.

Among the natives this great work of reformation began in 1838 at Wainea and at nearly all the stations on Hawaii, as also on Maui, Oahu, and Kauai. The power of the work left no doubt *whose* work it was! Dull and stupid, imbecile and ignorant pagans began to think and feel; groveling, vile, and wretched slaves of lust and passion began to aspire after holiness and rise out of their dust and degradation; hard and insensate consciences began to suffer pangs of sorrow for sin, and manifest the quickening of a sense of duty, and proved a force at work, higher in source, deeper in reach, than any that man can wield! The islands became vocal with the cries of penitence and prayer! Crowds flocked to hear the Word. Intoxication became rare, Sabbath observance well-nigh universal, and family worship common, even among those who had not as yet publicly professed faith in Jesus!

In 1839, May 10th, the whole Bible was given to the people in their own tongue, and the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures greatly promoted the work of evangelization. Three years afterward the number of professing Christians had reached 19,210, nearly sixteen times greater than five years before. In one year more there were 23 churches, with an average membership of over one thousand! and during this season of extraordinary interest, the congregations at Ewa, Honolulu, Wailuku, and Hilo numbered from 2500 to 6000. From 1838 to 1841, 8000 were added to the church, from the districts of Hilo and Puna whose whole population was but 14,000. Mr. Coan admitted 5000 in one year and 1700 in one day; and only after careful inquiry into each individual case.

When before did a half century produce such changes! They were idolaters of the grosser sort; human sacrifices were common; they worshipped the great volcano, had their Poison God and War God, and Tiari, with infe-