

"And many shall say in that day, Lord, Lord, open unto me," and He shall say, "Depart from me, I know you not." But "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the City."— Mission Studies.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

THE NEW HEBRIDES.

The South Sea Islands.

The vast bosom of the Southern Pacific Ocean is gemmed with thousands of islands, some large, some small, clad in fadeless green, and bright with the smile of perpetual summer. The New Hebrides group, in Western Polynesia, fourteen hundred miles from Australia, extends four hundred miles north and south. The principal islands are Santo, Malekula, Efaté, Erromanga, Tanna, and Aneityum. Thirty of the islands are inhabited. Captain Cook explored the whole group, and because of its lofty mountains, which reminded him of the Scottish Hebrides, he admiringly gave to it the name it still bears. The islands are rich in all that lends beauty and loveliness to tropical scenes; mountain ranges, clad with forests to the summit; green and fertile valleys, stupendous precipices, deep dark gorges, sunless caverns, coral reefs over which the long waves of the Pacific beat and break in ceaseless play. In some of the islands the fearful throes of the earthquake are often felt, and in some the volcano thunders continually. Fruits abound. Little labour is required to win a living from the coconut grove, the bread-fruit tree, the banana patch.

The people of these islands when first discovered, were sunk in the lowest depths of moral degradation—depths so profound as to be indescribable on the printed page. Human sacrifices were offered to paltry and cruel gods. Widows were strangled. Infanticide prevailed. Cannibalism was as universal as war; and war was the normal condition of the people. Indeed, all society in the islands was a dead sea of pollution. Petty tribes separated by a mountain, a stream, or a narrow arm of the sea, treated each other as deadly foes, to be slain and eaten. The whole condition of the people served as a vivid and ghastly illustration of the state into which men sink when left to themselves under most favorable circumstances. Here were tribes, not troubled with an endless struggle for food and clothing, shelter and fuel; fearing no external foe; enjoying abundant leisure; surrounded with all the loveliness of Eden, and with all the wealth a child of nature should desire. Yet they had no knowledge of the true God, and