

Hunt, Calvert, Lyth, and Williams, began their earnest evangelistic efforts among the 200,000 cannibals of Feejee. John Williams had returned from England in the "Camden," with the view of opening up the New Hebrides, the Loyalty Islands, and New Caledonia. He was on his first voyage, had opened friendly intercourse with the natives of Tanna, when, in November 1839, he fell at Dillon's Bay, Erromango, a victim to the blind revenge of the poor natives, on whom some fearful outrages had been committed a short time before, by the captain and crew of a trading vessel, and who were waiting to revenge these on the first vessel or the first white men that might come within their reach. Williams and Harris became their unsuspecting victims.

These outrages were connected with the discovery of san-lal-wood among the islands. It brought high prices in China, and hence a trade sprung up which was carried on for the most part "in a way very discreditable to the white men employed in it, who have often shown themselves in no way behind the blacks in cruelty and treachery, and indeed with the sole exception of cannibalism, in the practice of all the vices we generally ascribe to savages." Injuries were committed upon the natives, to revenge which boats' crews were massacred. Women were bought or kidnapped, natives taken away under false pretences, and a state of things arose so disgraceful to British commerce, that the Government in Sydney passed a stringent enactment to prevent the buying or taking away of native women, and men-of-war made regular visits to inquire into these outrages, and call the aggressors to account.

But at this time dark clouds began to lower over Polynesia, and the mutterings of a thunder-storm were heard, which eventually broke on Tahiti with fearful violence. Rome awoke, gazed with envy on those lovely isles, and called on France to come to her aid. A decretal of the Propaganda, confirmed by Leo XII., 1833, confided to the Society *Maison de Picpus*, the task of converting ALL the islands of the Pacific from the North to the South Pole. Instead, however, of going to the heathen, of whom, both then and still, there are multitudes in the Pacific, the Popish priests have followed almost exclu-

sively in the wake of Protestant missionaries.

It is said that the priesthood represented to Louis Philippe's Queen, who was sister to that most devout son of the Church, Bomba King of Naples, that it would be a most meritorious work for her to establish a Catholic chapel alongside of every Protestant church in the Pacific, and hinted that the naval power of France could render essential service in this pious and glorious undertaking. The priest-ridden Queen, dazzled with the bright prospect of being canonized as a second Helena, pleaded earnestly with her husband to assist her in this devout and glorious enterprise. The idea chimed admirably in with the policy of Louis, one of whose ruling maxims was to fawn upon Rome and over-reach England; although, when the hour of trial came, the first man that recognised the new government was the Archbishop of Paris, and his only true friend, on whose protection he could rely, was the Queen of perfidious Albion! The doings of the French in Tahiti are matters of history and hence we need not repeat them. When poor Queen Pomare was deprived of her kingdom, the Rev. Mr. Threlkeld, formerly the colleague of John Williams, wrote a letter to Louis Philippe, solemnly warning him, that if he persisted in depriving a poor defenceless Queen of her crown and kingdom, he would do well to look carefully after his own; for there is a God in Heaven who protects the innocent and takes vengeance on the guilty, and disposes of thrones and crowns without consulting the dynasties of Europe. The King of the French refused to be admonished. Good old Alexander Peden, looking at the analogy of Scripture, and the principles of the Divine government revealed in God's Word, applied the threatening of the prophet respecting Coniah to the last of the Stuarts, and said, "Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days, no man of his seed shall prosper sitting upon the throne of David." By that and many similar declarations after the Revolution men called Peden a prophet. And why should not the same honour be awarded to the courageous king warning Threlkeld?

Such was the transition state of the South Sea Islands twenty years ago.