

July, 1801. But neither could they make any progress, and in 1803, the field was abandoned as utterly hopeless. Two years later, however, five of them returned from N. S. Wales, whither they had gone, and settled on the neighbouring island of Eimeo, where King Pomare then resided, and who, to the joy and surprise of the missionaries, soon after their return, offered himself as a candidate for baptism, declaring his intention to worship Jehovah, and expressing his desire to be further instructed in the principles of religion. Eimeo became a sanctuary for the missionaries when troubles arose in Tahiti, and, when a plot was laid for the destruction of Christianity, it became a rallying point for the native converts; and, in 1815, when matters reached a crisis, a pitched battle took place betwixt them and the idolaters, which resulted in the extermination of heathenism. From that time forward Christianity prevailed. The clemency of the King and the Christian chiefs toward their vanquished foes completely subdued them. Idolatry was abolished in both Tahiti and Eimeo. A new era was at hand. A master-spirit now appeared on the scene who was adapted in a remarkable degree to head the enterprise. This was *John Williams*, who, along with Messrs. William Ellis, J. M. Ormond, L. E. Threlkeld, C. Barff, R. Bourne, and D. Darling, arrived at Eimeo as a reinforcement to the mission. Mr. Ellis, himself one of the foremost missionaries, is widely known through his writings, and the important services which he rendered to the cause of missions in Madagascar, as well as in the South Seas.

JOHN WILLIAMS was born near London, in 1796. He had a pious mother. His biographer says of him—"He was never known to tell a lie." At eighteen he was converted, and at once made up his mind to devote his life to missionary work among the heathen. After having gone through a course of study, he and Robert Moffat were ordained as missionaries in September, 1816—the one to be the apostle of Polynesia, the other to become famous as a pioneer missionary in the wilds of Africa. With his young wife Williams sailed from England in the "Harriet," 17th November, 1816. Having spent a short time in Sidney and New Zealand, it was a year before the party reached Eimeo, where Williams remained some time learning the language, and assisting the missionaries to build a vessel which was named the "Haweis," in honour of Dr. Haweis. From Eimeo he and Mr. Threlkeld were sent to Huahine, where the people received them joyfully. From neighbouring isles crowds came to see them. Among others, Tamatoa, the King of Raiatea, came asking for missionaries. This was the central and largest island of the Society group

—the seat of political power, and the headquarters of idolatry, having its great temple of Oro—the Moloch of the South Seas. Two years before this, a small vessel from Tahiti having on board a missionary, Mr. Wilson, and Pomare, had been driven to seek shelter in a storm. The effect of this unexpected visit was, that Tamatoa had been influenced in favour of Christianity. Upon Huahine Williams first erected a tasteful house for himself, and then taught the people to build, and to cultivate the ground. But, pleasing as was their reception, the missionaries soon perceived that the people they had to deal with, were savages of the lowest type. They persevered. A small chapel was erected and a printing press set a going. Schools were established. In a short time an incredible change had come over the people. The chapel was superseded by a church to hold 3,000. Villages of neat whitewashed cottages rose along the shores: a code of laws was adopted by vote of the people in public assembly: Trial by jury was introduced, and the foundations of remunerative commerce were laid in growing cotton, tobacco and sugar. More than this, he early taught them the first principles of missionary enterprise. It was a great day at Raiatea when "the Missionary Society" was inaugurated. King Pomare was chosen its first president, and opened the proceedings with an eloquent address. At the end of the first year, in May, 1821, the Raiateans had contributed produce valued at \$2,500 as an earnest of their desire to make known the gospel to others. At the end of two years their contributions were more than \$7,000. In May, 1820, seventy natives, including some of the principal chiefs, were baptized. Now that the mission was firmly planted, Williams must move on to greater conquests. He paid a visit to Sydney, purchased a small vessel, the "Endeavour," and sailed for Rarotonga, the chief island of the Hervey group. Within twelve months that whole group, numbering 7,000 people, had renounced idolatry and were engaged in building a church, *six hundred feet long!* It was here that Williams conceived the idea of building a missionary ship for himself. Aided only by native labour, he carried out the project, and in fifteen weeks the "Messenger of Peace" was launched, a staunch vessel, sixty feet long, and about seventy tons burden. Leaving the missionaries with their wives to carry on the work he had begun at Rarotonga, he set sail for the Samoan or Navigator's Islands, six hundred miles distant. The natives loved him dearly, and mourned bitterly when they heard he was going away. And these were the people who sought to murder the missionaries who first landed on Rarotonga. The Samoans were found to be more open for the reception of the Gospel than