

near by to attend it on three afternoons in the week. A month afterward they asked to be taught oftener, and were instructed daily. They learned to read and write, being first taught to make letters on the sand. Spelling-books and Bible histories were made for them and sent to England to be printed. As the missionaries began to be familiar with the language, they discovered that it was unfitted for the expression of Christian ideas. There was, for instance, no word for "thanks," and no proper expression for "God."

A vessel arrived from the directors of the London Missionary Society, bearing a letter in English for Pomare. He was pleased with it, answered it courteously, and consented to the request of the directors, and promised to banish Oro from the island. He acknowledged that his land was a bad land, a foolish land, and one that knew not the true God; asked for a large number of men, women, and children from England, and said he would adopt English customs. This letter appears to have been insincere, for shortly afterward he desired that a man might be killed at Atehuru as a sacrifice, and taken in a canoe to another place; and he sought to conceal it from the missionaries. He seems to have made his fair promises only as a cloak for his covetousness.

In 1807 another war broke out at Tahiti, which lasted about three years. The missionaries were obliged to leave the island, Mr. Nott and Mr. Hayward going to Huahine near by, and all the rest to Port Jackson in New South Wales.

The king, who had gone to Eimeo, invited the missionaries to come to that island. There were now seven missionaries in Eimeo—Nott, Hayward, Bicknell, Scott, Wilson, Davies, Henry. They had settled at Pape-toai, and built a small chapel and opened a school. Events occurred which inclined them to stay in Eimeo, and they observed that the king appeared to regard idols less than he had done in times past. For instance, in 1812, when a sacred turtle was caught, instead of sending it to the idol's temple, he had it dressed in an oven in his own kitchen, and served for his dinner, which was an astounding blow at idol customs; and as no harm befell him, he was confirmed in his contempt of idols, and the power of the popular superstitions was greatly weakened. Pahi, the brother of the King of Raiatea, made a still bolder experiment—destroying in an oven a sacred log which had been worshipped, and then ate bread fruit that had been baked in its ashes.

Pomare declared that he would now have henceforth but one wife. He married Teara, daughter of the Raiatean king, and on the birth of her little daughter the customs of the ages were disregarded, which permitted no fires to be lighted for many days, nobody to leave the shore, and no persons to approach the child except sacred persons in sacred garments.

On July 18th, 1812, Pomare asked to be baptized, and declared his fixed purpose to cleave to Jehovah and His people. He said, "I wish you to pray for me," and proposed to build a larger chapel. He declared that