

not remain 'a dead letter' When the Scriptures speak to a heathen in his own tongue, his conscience responds, 'This is the word of God.' The man who produces a translation of the Bible into a new language (like Wickliffe, and Luther, and Ziegenbalg, and Carey) is a greater benefactor to mankind than the prince who founds an empire. For the 'incorruptible seed of the Word of God' can never die. After ages have revolved it is still producing new accessions of truth and human happiness." Portions of the Scriptures have been translated into nearly as many other languages. The missionaries have also prepared and printed in all these languages a number of other books; primers, catechisms, hymn-books, tracts, commentaries, sermons, elementary books on science, newspapers, and magazines; besides dictionaries and grammars of the respective languages or dialects. Be it further remembered that every word in these eight languages had to be caught as it floated, often rapidly and indistinctly, on the lips of the natives; the meaning of the words, their orthography and grammatical structure, had all to be settled before they could become the visible vehicle for communicating the truths of God's Word to those illiterate, dark-minded pagans. How many of the renowned universities of Europe, with all their learned leisure, have, during these forty years, done more to advance Biblical literature than those humble missionaries, with few helps, toiling beneath a vertical sun, and constantly occupied with other professional labours?

Another encouraging feature of the Polynesian missions is, that they are nearly all self-supporting. It is a fully-recognised principle, that nothing can continue permanently which has not all the elements of support within itself. Christianity in the South Seas is fast coming up to this condition. In the Sandwich Islands this point was reached some time ago. In New Zealand, although the natives are the wealthiest of any in the South Seas, yet, from various reasons, they are perhaps the lowest in the scale of self-support, but even among them we have witnessed very commendable liberality. In Tonga, King George and his Wesleyan subjects have nearly, if not altogether, relieved the Society of all pecuniary responsibility. It is only twenty-six

or twenty-seven years since the first band of six missionaries commenced operations in Samoa, among a population of 35,000. The number of missionaries never averaged more than about twelve. They have had many formidable obstacles to contend with,—a nine years' war, and Popery putting forth all its strength. The whole population have renounced heathenism, and professed Christianity; and let their Christianity be tested by its fruits. Hospitality is said to be a savage virtue; but liberality in support of the gospel was never known to be such. The men who twenty-seven years ago were the most selfish of savages, are now becoming models of liberality. In addition to building all their own churches, manses, and school-houses, and paying for all their Bibles and school-books, to the amount of some thousands of pounds, they contribute annually £500 for the support of native agency among themselves, and £1000 a year to the funds of the London Missionary Society, thus rendering the mission about three-fourths self-supporting. For a full account of the Samoan mission we must refer our readers to *Nineteen Years in Polynesia*, by the Rev. Dr. Turner, lately published. This work, which is quite original both in matter and arrangement, contains a great amount of valuable and varied information, and will well repay a careful perusal. In the Hervey Islands, where the gospel has been longer among the people, the liberality, in proportion to the number of the population, is considerably higher. In Aneityum, in the New Hebrides, where, thirteen years ago, all was heathen darkness, and where now the whole inhabitants, about 3500, have professed Christianity, they have met every pound of money expended on their behalf with a pound's worth of labour; and last year, in addition, they collected arrow-root to the value of about £100, being one-third of the annual expense of the mission. If the natives of those islands continue advancing in liberality in the same ratio as they have hitherto done—and we may reasonably hope that they will do so—in a few years Christianity will be more than self-sustaining in Polynesia; it will be self-extending—the only condition which fully secures perpetuity.

In connexion with this we may refer to the means taken in all the missions to train