

began and explained to the king and the chiefs what the missionaries had done in Tahiti, and what blessings Christianity had brought to the islands, and what peace and happiness the people now enjoyed. The Hawaiians knew something of Tahiti; and when they saw that men of their own colour, men speaking their own tongue, men every way like themselves had embraced Christianity, they were deeply impressed; the effect was so powerful that the king and chiefs immediately professed Christianity. By a remarkable providence a year or two before that time the king, Rihorihio, a young strong-minded, self-willed, pleasure-loving man—a kind of Henry VIII.—broke through the native *tapus*, and abolished the national idolatry. When the missionaries came they found idolatry abolished, and the people without a religion. It was an undisputed maxim among them, that the people must follow the religion of their chiefs. And when the Tahitians explained to them in their own tongue the marvellous changes to the better in Tahiti, and expounded to them the leading principles of Christianity, a people numbering 150,000, began and placed themselves under Christian instruction, and continued to do so as fast as instructors could be obtained. On the Austral Islands, the Hervey Islands, and the Samoan group, native pioneers opened up the way for missionaries, and greatly facilitated the progress of the gospel.

Both directors and missionaries gave great prominence to prayer. They felt that without Divine power specially put forth, Satan's kingdom, so firmly established, could not be overthrown. Their prayers offered up in faith were heard and answered, God suited the communications of his grace to the peculiar circumstances of his servants. Sometimes he aided them by the special operations of his providence, at other times by the special manifestations of His Spirit. In the Sandwich Islands, some natives possessed of singular oratorical powers were raised up to address their fellow-countrymen on the concerns of their souls; and several remarkable revivals took place in the first stages of the mission.

Rather more than twenty years ago, while M'Cheyne's preaching was producing such effects in Dundee, and when, by the ministrations of Burns and others in

Kilsyth, the callous-hearted colliers, and others equally indifferent to religion, were weeping for their sins, or singing for joy under a sense of pardoning mercy, similar scenes were being witnessed in Tutuila, one of the Samoan Islands, under the preaching of Mr. Murray and his fellow-missionary Mr. Slatyer. Men of giant frames, stern warriors, whose shadow was death in the battle-field, men who were a terror in the land of the living, these men trembled under strong convictions of sin, were often struck down, and became feeble as little children. Hundreds of the natives gave evidence of a change of heart by a change of life, and continued steadfast in their profession of the gospel to their dying day. An admirable and interesting account of this revival, entitled, "Missionary Life in Samoa," was written by Mrs. Dr. Duncan, compiled from the letters and journals of her son, who was residing on the island, an invalid, while the work was going on, and who recorded from time to time what was passing under his own eye. It was a labour of love to the gifted and now venerable authoress, and the book may still be read with interest and profit, especially in these days of revivals. On other islands a quieter but a no less permanent work was going on at the same time.

Twenty years ago, as we have already seen, nearly the whole of Polynesia had become nominally Christian. Seven out of the eight groups of islands had renounced heathenism, and placed themselves under the instructions of Christian missionaries. The darkness of ages, the long dark night of ignorance, idolatry, cruelty, and abominable wickedness, had passed away, and the glorious Sun of Righteousness had arisen upon the islands with healing in His wings. There was light and joy, gladness and good days among the many isles of the sea.—Micronesia and Melanesia were still shrouded in darkness, but the first faint streaks of opening day were becoming visible among the western isles. Science again appeared in those seas. The American government fitted out an expedition under Captain Wilkes, who surveyed the Feejee and Samoan groups, and collected and published a mass of interesting information respecting those islands. About the same time the Wesleyans commenced missionary operations among the Papuan races. Cross