

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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How to Lighten Our Lot.

TAKE kindly all that is kindly meant;
Be first to thank, be last to resent;
Give smiles to all who give smiles to thee,
And those who come frowning, feign not to see;
And, oh! believe me, this is the plan
To lighten, to brighten, the lot of man.

Seem blind when the faults of a friend appear;
Seem deaf when the slanderer's voice you hear;
Seem dumb when the curious crowd you meet,
And they bid you the slanderous tale repeat;
And, oh! believe me, this is the plan
To lighten, to brighten, the lot of man.

TAHITI.

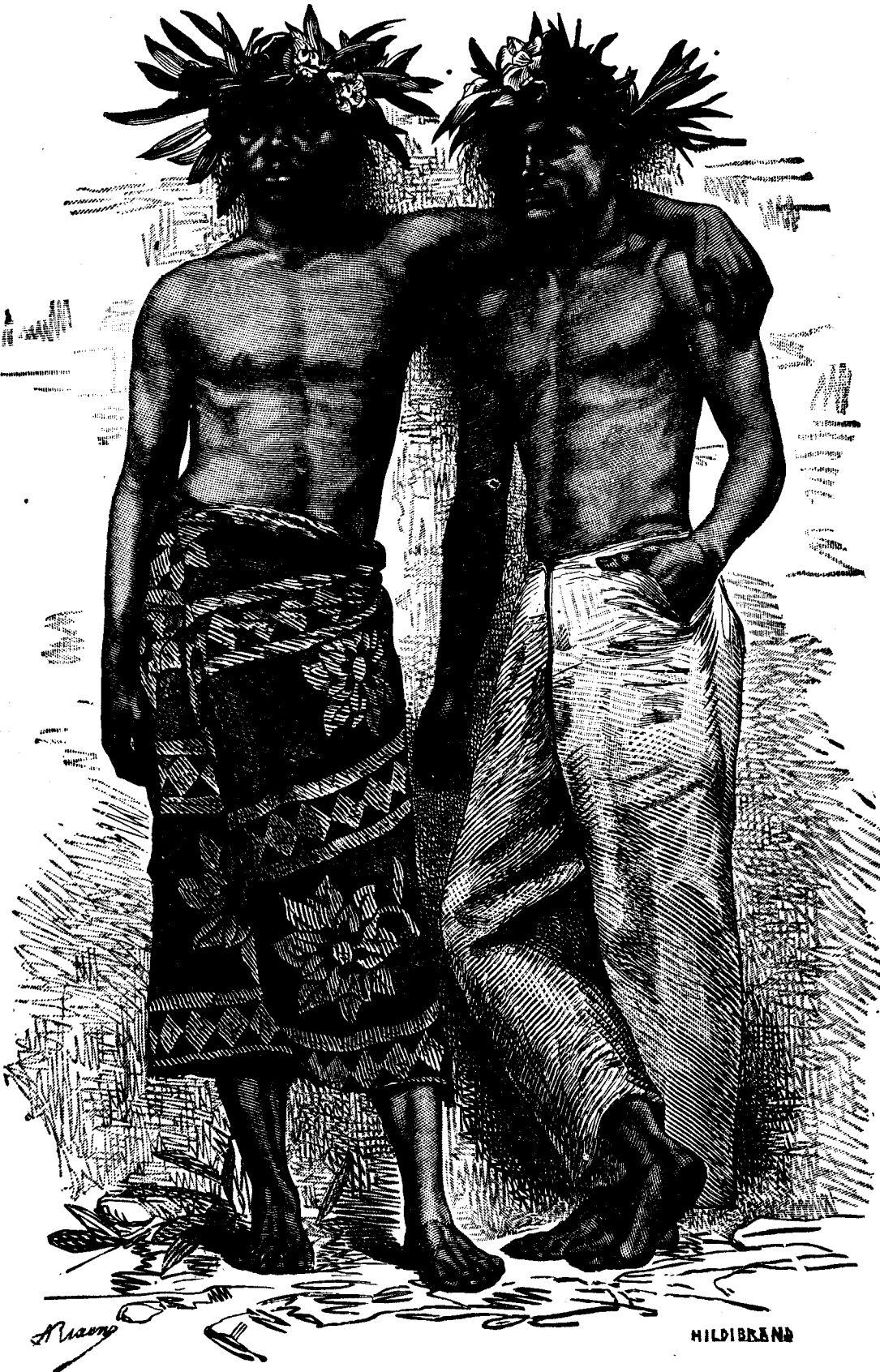
CAPTAIN WALLIS, commander of his Majesty's ship *Dolphin*, when crossing the comparatively untraversed waters of the Southern Pacific Ocean, in the year 1767, discovered the splendid island of Tahiti, which has since occupied so prominent a place in the annals of missionary enterprise. Little did its discoverer think, when hoisting the broad pennant on the Tahitian shores and taking possession of the island in the name of his sovereign, King George III., that in a few short years the missionary, sent by the liberality and sustained by the prayers of British Christians, would follow in his track, search for the lovely spot he had discovered, unfurl another banner, and take possession of that and other islands in the name of the King of kings. This has been effected under the guidance of him

"Who plants his footsteps in the sea;"

for the providence of God has evidently conspired with the Spirit of God in the accomplishment of this great work.

The following were the views of the Rev. J. Williams, who went as a missionary to Tahiti, in the year 1817:

To this mission, considered in its relation to other islands, too much importance cannot be attached; for, in addition to the numerous islands now professedly Christian, there are, within a comparatively small distance, many large and extensive groups of which little is known. Among these are the Fiji, the New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Solomon's Archipelago, New Britain, New Ireland, and, above all, the immense island of New Guinea. This island is said to be 1,200 miles in length, and, in some parts, about 300 in breadth.



NATIVES OF TAHITI.

"When Pomare, the king of Tahiti, first determined to embrace Christianity, and attempt the introduction of it among his people, before taking any decided steps, he convened a number of powerful and influential chiefs, and stated his wishes to

them. Very many made strong objections to the proposed innovation; but Tenania, and his wife, who were reigning chiefs in a neighbouring island, cordially approved of the king's proposition, stating that they themselves had almost come to a deter-

mination to burn their god. This feeling had been induced by the death of a beloved and only daughter, who was to inherit their titles and estates; and, as might be expected, was the object in which their affections centred, and on whom their hopes were placed. She was a fine girl, about fifteen or sixteen years of age; and when she was unexpectedly taken ill, every priest of note, far and near, was applied to, and every god propitiated with the most costly offerings which it was in the power of this mighty chief to command. Still the disease increased, and the child died; and as this happened only a short time before Pomare made his important proposition, Tenania and his wife were well prepared by it to enter most cordially into the king's wishes, for they were bitterly enraged against the gods they had in vain endeavoured to conciliate. Thus Pomare had the influence of a powerful chief on his side, on the very first announcement of his intentions. Tapoa, another chief of equal fame, was present at this important consultation. He was a mighty warrior, the Bonaparte of the Tahitian and Society islands; and, having conquered all the latter, had come to Tahiti, ostensibly to assist Pomare in regaining his ascendancy in that island, but actually to conquer it for himself. Tapoa was a bigoted idolater, and, at the meeting in question, expressed his full determination to oppose in every possible way so impious an innovation as the destruction of the gods. Although ill at the time, he removed immediately to Tahiti, for the purpose of making arrangements for the battles he expected to fight; but disease made rapid inroads upon his constitution, and he died very shortly after he attended the meeting of his brother chieftains. It is the general opinion of intelligent natives to the present day, that, had Tapoa lived, Christianity could not have been introduced among the people. These events, therefore, show us that, although the age of miracles has ceased, God has ample means of effecting the purposes of his love by the ordinary interpositions of his providence, which are equally mighty in the pulling down of the strongholds of heathen superstition and in removing obstacles to the progress of his truth."

The Tahitians are very fond of flowers, and wear wreaths and garlands of them, as shown in the picture. Through Christian influence they have learned to wear Christian costume, and are now found sitting clothed and in their right mind at the feet of Jesus.

MILDBRAND