

every inferior animal, the Samoans recognized the presence of some god, and each god was represented by some priest. Thus worshipping gods many and lords many, and to a great extent guilty of the immoral states and practices represented by Paul in the first chapter of his epistle to the Romans, Williams found them, when he brought them the Gospel in 1830.

The Gospel and its results.—God, by his providential operation, had in a great measure prepared the people to welcome the messengers of salvation. In only two years after the Tahitian teachers first landed on Savaii, parties were found in all parts of the group, anxious to be instructed in the religion of Jesus. Under the superintendence of the Rev. G. Platt, of Raiatea, the teachers prosecuted their work with vigour and success. When the first band of missionaries, appointed by the Board of Directors of the London Missionary Society to labour on Samoa, arrived in 1836, they found the people everywhere ready to welcome them, and receive their message; and now, after more than thirty years of labour, what are the results? They are these: The whole nation professes Christianity; heathenism, and to a great extent, heathen practices, have been abolished; the whole Bible has been carefully translated into their language, and it has long been in circulation among them; a third or more of the population can read. About five thousand adults are united to the Church fellowship, and some four thousand more candidates for the same privilege; more than two hundred of the male members are preachers of the Gospel to their fellow islanders, and many have gone as pioneer missionaries to distant groups and islands, where they have been instrumental in planting the gospel. Native contributions are made annually for the support of the native teachers, amounting in local value to about \$10,000; and for some years past \$5,000 per annum in cash has been contributed towards the funds of the Society which sends them their missionaries. A large training institution for preparing a native pastorate has been in operation twenty-two years. The work in all these phases is consolidating and advancing, and besides these results, civilization has attended the progress of the gospel, and now the people who had no commerce before the gospel was introduced, have an export trade in cocoa-nut oil and cotton of some \$200,000 or \$250,000 per annum. Assuredly such results show that the work is of God, and afford encouragement and incentive to strenuous efforts thus to bless every remaining dark place of the earth by furnishing to it the light of the glorious gospel of the blessed God. To him be the praise for all success!

Aniwa.

The following is from Rev. J. G. PATON, now on Aniwa, one of the New Hebrides group:—

After much toil and difficulty from the printing press being out of order, and from want of type, I succeeded in getting my first little Aniwa book printed. The natives are very proud of it, and encourage and assist each other to learn to read it. It would have saved much of my time to have got it printed in the colonies; but I would have had to wait for it till the return of the *Dayspring*, and I expect many of our people will be able to repeat it all before that. A few copies for the members of the Mission Committee accompany this letter.

You are already aware that we were badly supplied with fresh water on this island, having only one well or water-hole, out of which we all were supplied, and no other fresh water existing on the island, except a day or two after heavy rains, which indeed are few and far between on Aniwa. I thought of getting a large tank or cistern at our house, but it would have been attended with much toil and expense, so I resolved to try to sink a well first. The natives were very much opposed to it, believing that there could be no water under ground on Aniwa. For payment, they are now willing to do any amount of work for me required at the mission station; yet they looked upon the idea of digging under ground and under coral rocks for water as so Utopian, that, except a very few, they all laughed, saying, "Missie, what is the use of helping? there can be no water there;" and even of the few that did help, after we had got a few feet down, not one of them durst go into the well for fear it would rush in upon them, and yet they can mount the largest trees like monkeys without fear. After we had got down nearly twenty-six feet, and I put up a bucket of excellent fresh water, they examined it and tasted it; and then taking each other by the hand, in turn they came so near as to look down to the bottom; and on seeing a beautiful spring of fresh water rising from the coral below, their joy knew no bounds, and nearly the whole inhabitants assembled to see it. One chief cried out, "We all thought and said that there could be no fresh water here, and we thought Missie mad for trying to sink it; but he told us there was water. Now we see the water, and believe his word. He spoke the truth, and we could not help laughing at him. This is a proof to us that though we cannot understand all he tells us about Jehovah, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, yet if we could see it all and taste it like the water, we would find it all to be as true. After this we must all believe all he says, though we cannot understand it all. Missie