

their pupils. After two years the printing-press was called into use in reducing the language to a printed form. The Hawaiian tongue having but twelve letters—seven consonants and five vowels, every letter having but one sound, and every syllable ending with a vowel—it was easy for the natives to learn to read and write, and a large portion of them made rapid progress. Thus a foundation was laid for introducing the Bible in the native tongue. Unfriendly foreigners represented the missionaries as political spies, and that their presence would be offensive to the English king, who bore to the Hawaiians the relation of protector, and declared that the missionaries at the Society Islands had robbed and enslaved the people; but these falsehoods were exposed at the very crisis, when the king threatened to banish the missionaries. An English vessel, touching at the Hawaiian port in 1822, had on board *from the Society Islands* two chiefs on their way to the Marquesas group as missionaries, and had also on board a deputation of English gentlemen, who had been visiting the islands on a missionary tour; and so the *exact means* were suddenly supplied to expose the false statements made by the enemies of the missionaries. Who could so well tell the true influence of missions in the Society Islands as the two converted chiefs! and who represent the feeling of the English Government so well as these men from British shores! God thus directly interposed at this juncture! Meanwhile, the wife of the late king made a tour of the islands, searching out and destroying idols. Hymns were written in the native tongue; in 1823, twenty-four chiefs, male and female, were learning to read and write, and the missionary band was reinforced. The same year Keopuolani died, the *first convert, baptized*. In this daughter of a kingly race, wife of a king and mother of two other kings, the Sandwich Island church began visibly to exist. She forbade the customary heathen abominations to be practised at her death, and from that day dates their permanent decline. Liholiho, in this same memorable year, visited America and England with his wife and two chiefs. The whole party were attacked with the measles in England, and the king and queen died. Liholiho had already, before leaving home, declared his belief in Christianity, attended public worship, and urged it on his people. At his death the favorite wife of his father became regent, and gave emphatic support to the Gospel and schools. Kapiolani, a female chief, made a journey to the great crater of Kilauea, where the great goddess Pele was said to dwell, and there purposely set at naught the power and wrath of the supposed deity to show the people their superstitious folly.

At the time of the visit of Lord Byron, in the British frigate which brought the royal remains, the government had begun to assume a Christian character, and the council formally acknowledged the authority of the Christian religion. Efforts were made, with royal sanction, to prevent murder, theft, infanticide, Sabbath desecration, licentiousness, and drunkenness; and Kauhikauoli, the heir to the throne, now nine years old, was put under the instruction of the missionaries, that he might shun the errors of his de-