

beautiful verses written by Mrs. Hemans, suggested by the sailing of a missionary ship, which certainly apply to the *Duff*, as well as to many others which succeeded it:—

- "Oft shall the shadow of the palm tree lie
O'er glassy bays, wherein thy sails are furled;
And its leaves whisper as the winds sweep by,
Tales of the older world."
- "Oft shall the burning stars of southern skies,
On the mid-ocean see thee charmed in sleep;
A lonely home for human thoughts and ties
Between the heavens and deep."
- "Blue seas, that roll on gorgeous coasts renowned,
By night shall sparkle where thy prow makes way;
Strange creatures of the abyss that none may sound,
In thy broad wake shall play."
- "From hills unknown, in mingled joy and fear,
Free dusky tribes shall pour, thy flag to mark,
Blessings go with thee on thy lone career!
Haste and farewell, thou bark!"
- "A long farewell! Thou wilt not bring us back
All whom thou bearest far from home and hearth;
Many are there whose steps no more shall walk
Their own sweet native earth."

It is characteristic of the time, that the *Duff* was chartered to call at a South American port for supplies of *good wine* for the missionaries. What would be thought of a mission-ship that did that in the present day?

We can imagine the delight of all on board, after their sea-voyage of nearly six months, on coming in sight of Tahiti; its white beach with a fringe of green cocoa palms, the branching forests of coral in the clear waters beneath, and the brilliant flowers and luscious fruits, and the island itself, with a background of verdure-clad hills. All formed a picture, welcome indeed to the eyes, weary with the monotony of a continuous sea view. They landed, and were well received by the natives; and two Swedish sailors being found who could speak both languages, acted as interpreters. Leaving some of the missionaries there, the *Duff* visited several other islands; leaving missionaries at the Marqueses Islands.

But it would take too long to give a full account, interesting as it would be, of the many islands touched at, and workers landed; so we must accompany the *Duff* on its homeward voyage. She first of all took up a cargo of tea at Macao; where the conduct of her crew was so different from that generally seen there, that she went by the name of "The Ten Commandments." She

arrived in England safely, after nearly two years' absence. The *Duff* made a second voyage a year later, but this time she was captured by a French cruiser; and though the missionaries on board, after some time, reached England, the ship was heard of no more. This, of course, discouraged the Society; and no other ship was secured for several years. But in the meantime, light having dawned on Tahiti, the natives were filled with an earnest desire to send to the neighboring islands, the gospel which had done so much for them; so with the assistance of the missionaries, they set to work to build a vessel. But the difficulties in the way were great; and most likely the work would have been unfinished, but for the arrival of Rev. John Williams, and several other workers from England; by whose efforts it was soon completed, and was for some time very useful to the work there, but was afterwards presented to the king of the island, for communication with New Zealand.

The name of John Williams is so inseparably connected with missionary ships, that a few facts about him will be interesting. Born in 1796, he was led at the age of eighteen to consecrate himself to Christ; and six years later, having visited the Society Islands, and seeing the need there was for earnest workers there, he resolved to devote himself to it; and, assisted by the London Missionary Society, he purchased a ship called the *Endeavour*. His attention was turned to the Island of Raratonga, of which he had heard a great deal; and after much difficulty, it was discovered. A land indeed good and glorious in everything but its people—a race of treacherous and ferocious cannibals. Four teachers were landed, but returned the next morning, having been very badly treated by the natives; and work there would probably have been abandoned, but for the offer of a native teacher to return alone. Four months afterward he was joined by another native; and their labors were blessed with such success, that in a year's time the whole population of Raratonga had given up their idolatry, and were building a Christian church! Also in another of the islands the gospel was so successful, that the natives sent their idols to the missionaries, who attached them to the yard-arms of the *Endeavor*; giving the vessel rather an uncommon