

lynesian polyglotism, did not suppose a few years ago that such a relation existed between them. The duel for example is complete in them all, as far as known, and the first persons dual and plural distinguish the inclusive and exclusive values, as in some South African, American, and Tartar languages. As far as I have compared the Tahitian and Rorotongun dialects with portions of the New Hebridean languages, I find the analogy quite manifest, not only in the pronouncing but also in the declension of nouns, and the laws of the articles and verbal particles; but I find the vocabularies of the latter, as far as they go, differing as much from each other as from the dialects of the Malayo-Polynesians.

The Bishop of New Zealand says that in Western Polynesia, any one dialect is not understood by more than 5000 natives. What information I may be enabled to receive on this subject in more favoured circumstances, (D. V.) I shall feel it my duty to commit to my esteemed friend Dr. Norros, of the Royal Asiatic Society.

The decrease of several branches of the Malayan race who have been favoured with all the blessings of European nations, is a sad circumstance which forces itself on our attention. In 1849 the deaths in the Sandwich Islands exceeded the number of births—2900; and the Rev. Mr. Walter in 1851 says of the Tongans, "They do not live long;—the females are women at thirteen, and grow old women before thirty. Alas, they quickly pass away and are gone!" What an argument why we should haste to preach to them the imperishable Gospel before they die, that a remnant of all may be saved according to the election of grace! There is some reason, however, to believe that the Papuas will not so fade away. Governor Grey speaks in the highest terms of the energy and durability of the New Zealanders since their contact with Europeans, and the abolition of infanticide; and Dr. Prichard says, "May not the New Zealanders owe their exemption from the fatality which appears to attend the appearance of Europeans among Polynesians, to the slight intermixture of the more energetic Papuan." There have been, however, causes besides female infanticide in operation among the Polynesians anterior to European residence, which may account for the diminution of some of these

racess—the investigation of which is now engaging the serious attention of some learned philanthropists. There can be little doubt that the Malays in their migrations spread from west to east, at which times there are many evidences extant of a commingling with other races; and when two dissimilar races unite, the result is never one homogenous race, and decrease of race follows in subsequent generations. All recorded evidence declares mulattoes or half-castes to be more liable to disease, and shorter life, than either parent. I have no doubt that the final result of these investigations on this important subject, (which has perplexed me for several years,) will be the complete removal of the calumnies cast upon the Gospel and its servants by those who seek occasion against the word of God, by the study of this subject as they study geology and other sciences; and that the purposes of God in relation to these races will appear to be fulfilled by the operation of laws which have no connexion with the introduction of the Gospel among them; for God has said that He will enlarge Japhet, and that he shall dwell in the tents of Shem. The Gospel in its regenerating influence has already saved many of them from diseases which are connected with them.

Although we are several degrees from the Cape, we are already beginning to cast a penetrating glance towards every distant object in the eastern horizon, in hope of seeing the long-looked-for Table mountain suddenly break forth on our vision with a cheerful influence which no other object from that quarter can produce. The first land which we saw after we passed the Isle of Wight, was St. Antonio, one of the Cape Verde Islands, which lifts its majestic head 7400 feet above the level of the sea. It was first seen by moonlight during the night, and the cry of "land ho!" caused a rush on deck to see the desired object. On the following day we saw Bravo, and others of these beautiful Islands, but the clouds so settled round them that much of their beauty and natural attractions were obscured from our vision. I ran up one of the masts and gazed as intently on them while they could be seen, as an expatriated traveller would on the first sight of his native country after a long tour in foreign climes. We would have esteemed it quite a privilege to have had a walk round their shores—