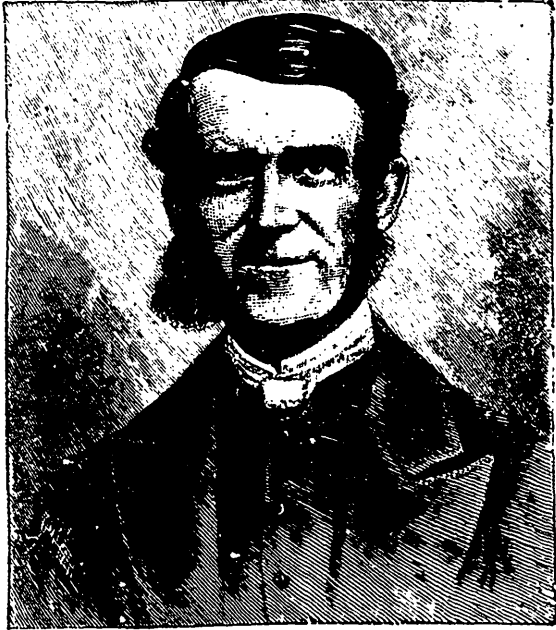


Our Foreign Missions.

1839. THE NEW HEBRIDES MISSION. 1889.

BY THE REV. ROBERT STEEL, D.D., PH. D., SYDNEY.

IT was in November, 1839, fifty years ago, the Apostle of Polynesia—JOHN WILLIAMS—gave his life in an endeavor to pioneer the gospel of Jesus Christ in the New Hebrides. He had heard of the cannibal people, and of many atrocities committed by them. But as he had seen the power of the gospel among other islanders of the South Pacific, he was anxious to win these islands to Christ. He had awakened an immense interest in South Sea missions on his visit to England, and by the publication of



REV. JOHN WILLIAMS.

his "Missionary Enterprises." No book of the kind ever made so great a sensation. It reached the hands of peer as well as people, and the Archbishop of Canterbury after perusing it, declared that it was like another chapter added to the Acts of the Apostles. In a few years 40,000 copies were sold. John Williams became the hero of the hour. After his return to the South Seas, he steadfastly set his heart to visit the New Hebrides. "It is our duty," he had said, "to visit surrounding islands. . . . For my own part, I