

He had been a long time in the Caucasus. I preached yesterday a sermon on Indian Missions in the English Church at Cronstadt. The chaplain is brother-in-law to the bishop of Columbia. It is, I believe, the first time that the missionary question was brought into the pulpit here.

I spent lately ten days with Prince Cheratsky on his estates, 120 miles from Moscow. He and his wife are two of the most enlightened persons I have ever met with. Both read English books, and admire English institutions. The princess has translated Hannah Moore's life into Russian; she visits schools, the poor, etc. I had some interesting conversation with her on religion. I spent subsequently four weeks in Moscow, and met there various good people of whom I shall retain a most pleasing recollection; among the rest, the Princess Lieven and her daughter; they were very much interested in Indian missions, and in the condition of the Indian people. A relative of hers was President of the Bible Society; and her brother-in-law was ambassador at the court of London for many years.

I spent many days at the monastery of Troitza, near Moscow, in company with a Greek monk, who is going out as a missionary to the Caucasus, where the Russian Church is prosecuting its missions vigorously in Siberia and Eastern Asia.

THE ISLAND OF FATE.

In our last we gave a description of the island and an account of the inhabitants, so far as we have been able to collect information regarding them. We also gave an account of the first settlement of Samoan teachers there in the month of May 1845. These faithful pioneers entered upon their work diligently, and the results for a time were very encouraging. They were for a time treated with uniform kindness by the people. They held religious services regularly on the Sabbath at several places, which were attended by an encouraging number of the natives. Objects of idolatrous worship were burned or destroyed, and the cruelties of Heathenism such as burying infants and old people alive, as well as cannibalism were to some extent abandoned. When the Missionary ship visited the island sixteen months later (in September 1846) it was found that the two villages where the teachers were located, with a number belonging to other districts, professed to have abandoned heathenism and to have embrac-

ed Christianity. Two new stations were commenced at Havannah Harbour, and a third at a different part of the island, so that there were now five stations occupied, with nine labourers. All seemed encouraging, and it appeared as if the time to favour this island was come. The expectation was then naturally entertained that a breach had been made in the idolatry of Western Polynesia, and that the first entering in of the gospel should be at this point. Preparations were made for following up the work by European missionaries as soon as practicable.

Before the missionary vessel again visited these islands, Mr. and Mrs. Geddie arrived at the Samoas with the view of commencing missionary operations on some part of Western Polynesia, and it was thought that Providence had prepared the way for them on Fate. In the early part of the year 1848, they sailed from the Samoas in the *John Williams* bound for the New Hebrides; uncertain where they should be settled, but expecting that this island should be the scene of their future labours. They arrived at Aneiteum and found the field open there, but before settling they proceeded to Fate to examine the state of matters there. They found that a sad change had taken place in the prospects of missionary work, as appears from the following report of the deputation who visited them.

"On reaching Fate we were grieved to learn that three of the five stations had been abandoned and that our devoted evangelists had been exposed to many perils. At one of the stations the teacher died of ague last year. It was the wish of his wife that she should go and reside with the teachers at another station; but the chief, wishing to have her and her little property would not allow it. Poor woman! This was more than her mind could bear. Preferring death to degradation, she rushed into the sea one day and was drowned, before the other teachers had time to unite in an effort to remove her from that station.

"At another place, where two teachers had been stationed, we found both dead, the station abandoned in consequence. About the same time that one of them the other was taken ill. He was visited