

## ORIGINAL POETRY.

## SONNET.

WHEN I survey the wonders of that skill,  
Which formed yon bright cerulean canopy—  
The dazzling orbs of light which shine on high,  
Create from nothing by the eternal will—  
The seas of rushing light—the worlds which roll,  
System on system—sphere encircling sphere—  
The word of power which sustains the whole,  
Fixes their orbits—and revolves them there—  
I'm lost—I sink beneath the lofty thought—  
Lord! what is man—that thou shouldst think on him?  
Less than the hosts of shining seraphim,  
Which circle thy bright throne—yet thou hast brought  
His soul, the richness of thy grace to prove—  
The unworthy subject of heaven's everlasting love.

## REVIEW.

*A Narrative of Missionary Enterprises in the South Sea Islands; with remarks upon the Natural History of the Islands, Origin, Languages, Traditions, and Usages of the Inhabitants.* By JOHN WILLIAMS, of the London Missionary Society. London, 1837, pp. xviii. 590. 8vo. (Continued.)

THE first voyage which the Messenger of Peace took after being thoroughly fitted out, was to convey Messrs. Pritchard and Simpson to the Marquesan Islands; the Directors having determined to endeavour to re-establish the Mission among the savage inhabitants of that group. At the expiration of this voyage, which, with the time of repairing the vessel, occupied about twelve months, she sailed for the Hervey Islands, Mr. Platt intending to visit them.

The important time had now arrived for commencing the voyage, on which the mind of Mr. W. had so long set, and for which the Messenger of Peace was built. The Rev. T. East, and the Rev. J. A. James of Birmingham, had generously responded to his call, and prepared a large supply of ironmongery, for the undertaking. Mr. Barff, his fellow-labourer, had consented to accompany him; and eight members of his church offered their services for this enterprize of mercy. They cleared the harbour on Monday, the 24th of May 1830, having with them seven teachers, and intending to augment the number from the Hervey Islands, which they proposed to visit on their way. After touching at Parapara, and spending a day with Mr. and Mrs. Platt and family, they shaped their course for the Hervey group; and in four or five days, reached in safety the island of MANGIA. After having spent a few days on this island, preaching to the people, visiting the heathen chiefs, attending the schools, and giving advice and instructions to the teachers, they prepared for their departure. In 1831, and subsequently, in 1833 for the last time, Mr. W. visited this island, and was made a blessing to the people. Leaving Mangia, they proceeded to ATIU, which, after two days pleasant sail, they reached in safety: their time was occupied night and day, one sleeping whilst the other was awake, in teaching the people to sing, and explaining passages of Scripture. This island also, Mr. W. subsequently visited. On the day after their arrival at Atiu, a heavy gale of wind arose, and there being no anchorage, their little vessel was driven out of sight of land; and as there

was no one on board who understood navigation, they never expected to see her again. But after having been tossed about for many days, a strong wind in the opposite direction drove her back again: they hoisted sail immediately, took leave of the kind people and pursued their voyage.

On visiting the two small islands of MAUKE and MITIARO, they found the natives, who possessed but few axes, were burning down trees, for timber to erect chapels. Mr. W. gave them some tools, encouraged them to persevere in their work and promised to return, and open their chapel in six or eight months. On his next visit he had the satisfaction of seeing two well-built, substantial places of worship: the pulpit at Mauke was a most remarkable specimen of native ingenuity and perseverance, for it was hewn entirely out of one large tree.

Leaving Mitiaro, they sailed for RAROTONGA, where they arrived, after a pleasant sail of two days, and received a cordial welcome on the beach from their esteemed friend and brother, Mr. Buzacott. A most dreadful and deadly disorder was raging among the people, and sweeping them away as with a deluge. They soon left this island and directed their course to the last of the Hervey island group, which was AITUTAKI. During their stay, their time was occupied in examining the school children, explaining different passages of Scripture, and supplying information and advice upon subjects of a civil, judicial, and religious character. "During my previous visit to this island," says the Narrator, "I was explaining to the people, one evening, the manner in which English Christians raised money, to send the Gospel to heathen countries. On hearing this, they expressed their regret at not having money, that they also might have the privilege of 'helping in the good work of causing the word of God to grow.' I replied, 'If you have not money, you have something to buy money with.' This idea was quite new to them, and they wished to know at once what they possessed which would buy money. I said to them, 'The pigs I brought to your island on my first visit have multiplied so greatly, that all of you have now an abundance; and if every family in the island were to set apart a pig 'for causing the word of God to grow,' and when the ships come to sell them for money, instead of cloth and axes, a valuable contribution might be raised.' The idea delighted them exceedingly, and early the next morning, the squeaking of the pigs, which were receiving a particular mark in the ear for this purpose, was heard from one end of the settlement to the other. In the interim a ship had been there, the captain of which had purchased their pigs, and paid for them most honourably; and now, to my utter astonishment, the native treasurer put into my hands £103, partly in bills, and partly in cash! This was the FIRST money they ever possessed, and every farthing of it was dedicated to the cause of Christ."

The circumstance which renders the narrative of the work of God at Aitutaki, Atiu, Mangia, and Mauke, more particularly interesting is, that all the beneficial changes which have been effected in these islands, are the result of the labours of native missionaries, no European Missionary having ever resided at either of them.