

to Christianity, so that Papeika was not left altogether desolate. By the time Tiberio, Papeika's colleague, arrived, which was about four months after the departure of the company, the little band had received many additions to their number. And when Messrs. Tyerman and Bennet, who were sent as a deputation from the London Missionary Society, visited the island, which was but little more than a twelvemonth after its discovery, the whole population had renounced idolatry, and were engaged in erecting a place of worship, six hundred feet in length!—The account of this very interesting visit is thus closed: "With grateful hearts we now turned our faces homewards; where, after eight or ten days' sail, we arrived in safety. And as warriors feel a pride in displaying trophies of the victories they win, we hung the rejected idols of Aitutaki to the yard-arms and other parts of the vessel, entered the harbour in triumph, sailed down to the settlement, and dropped anchor amidst the shouts and congratulations of our people."

In 1827, Rorotonga was again visited by Mr. Williams, wife and family, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Pitman, the latter of whom designed to make it the scene of their missionary labours. The visit of the former was protracted to the period of a year. They obtained a very comfortable house from one of the teachers. Here also idols were delivered up; some were torn to pieces before their eyes; others were reserved to decorate the rafters of the chapels they proposed to erect; and one was kept to be sent to England, which is now in the Missionary Museum. It is not, however, so respectable in appearance as when in its own country; for his Britannic Majesty's officers, fearing lest the god should be made a vehicle for defrauding the king, very unceremoniously took it to pieces; and not being so well skilled in making gods as in protecting the revenue, they have not made it so handsome as when it was an object of veneration to the deluded Rorotongans. A chapel, one hundred and fifty feet in length, and sixty wide, well plastered and fitted up throughout with seats, and which will accommodate nearly three thousand persons, was completed in two months without a single nail, or any iron-work whatever. In the erection of this chapel the following circumstance occurred: "As I had come," says Mr. Williams, "to the work one morning without my square, I took up a chip, and with a piece of charcoal wrote upon it a request that Mrs. Williams would send me that article. I called a chief, who was superintending his portion of the work, and said to him, 'Friend, take this; go to our house, and give it to Mrs. Williams.' He was a singular looking man, remarkably quick in his movements, and had been a great warrior; but in one of the numerous battles he had fought, had lost an eye, and giving me an inexpressible look with the other, he said, 'Take that! she will call me a fool and scold me, if I carry a chip to her.' 'No,' I replied, 'she will not; take it, and go immediately; I am in haste.' Perceiving me to be in earnest, he took it, and asked, 'What must I say?' I replied, 'You have nothing to say, the chip will say all I wish.' With a look of astonishment and contempt, he held up the piece of wood, and said, 'how can this speak? has this a mouth?' I desired him to take it immediately, and not spend so

much time in talking about it. On arriving at the house, he gave the chip to Mrs. Williams, who read it, threw it away, and went to the tool-chest; whither the chief, resolving to see the result of this mysterious proceeding, followed her closely. On receiving the square from her, he said, 'Stay, daughter, how do you know that this is what Mr. Williams wants?' 'Why,' she replied, 'did you not bring me a chip just now?'—'Yes,' said the astonished warrior, 'but I did not hear it say any thing.' 'If you did not, I did,' was the reply, 'for it made known to me what he wanted, and all you have to do is to return with it as quickly as possible.' With this the chief leaped out of the house, and catching up the mysterious piece of wood, he ran through the settlement with the chip in one hand and the square in the other, holding them up as high as his arms could reach, and shouting as he went, 'See the wisdom of these English people; they can make chips talk, they can make chips talk!' On giving me the square, he wished to know how it was possible thus to converse with persons at a distance. I gave him all the explanation in my power; but it was a circumstance involved in so much mystery, that he actually tied a string to the chip, hung it round his neck, and wore it for some time. During several following days, we frequently saw him surrounded by a crowd, who were listening with intense interest while he narrated the wonders which this chip had performed."

The manner in which the Sabbaths were spent was deeply interesting. At sun-rise they held a prayer-meeting to implore the divine blessing on the engagements of the day. This they conducted entirely themselves. At nine o'clock the congregation assembled again, when the Missionary performed divine service just as it is conducted in England,—prayer being offered, the sacred Scriptures read, and hymns sung in their own beautiful language; after which, a sermon is preached to them. Prior, however, to the commencement of the service, they met in classes, of ten or twelve families each, and distributed among themselves the respective portions of the sermon which each individual should bring away; one saying, 'Mine shall be the text, and all that is said in immediate connexion with it'; another, 'I will take care of the first division'; and a third, 'I will bring home the particulars under that head.' Thus the sermon was apportioned before it was delivered. At a convenient time the respective classes met, and after commencing their social service with singing and prayer, one of the most intelligent of their number began by inquiring, 'With whom is the text?' and proposed a variety of questions upon it. After this he asked for the divisions of the discourse; and when one had been given, he would say, 'To what portion of Scripture were we referred?' The chapter being named, was then read very carefully; and the verses thought to be applicable were selected:—a very wise and profitable course! During the year Mr. Williams remained with Mr. Pitman at Rorotonga, the natives adopted a code of civil laws, having received assistance in drawing it up from their justly esteemed Missionaries.

Mr. Williams' mind had long been exercised with a desire to extend his labours to the Navigators Islands and the New Hebrides, which were from 1800 to 2000