

to England for consecration as the first Bishop of the Falkland Islands. In the meantime Mr. Bridges had returned to England for ordination, and an iron house was provided. This was erected at the contractors Old Ford in the east of London, and the house there solemnly dedicated to the mission, Mr. Bridges and two catechists intended for the mission being present. Mr. Bridges started off immediately to supply the place of Mr. Stirling on the 9th of August, 1869. Whilst Mr. Stirling was away Mr. Bartlett, the Mission Farm Bailiff, had been to Ooshooia to help the natives in planting their gardens, and to show them they were remembered and cared for. In a report to Mr. Stirling he says, "The natives behaved themselves exceedingly well. We counted over forty canoes, and there were about 250 persons (at Ooshooia). They made inquiries after you, and are anxious to know when you will return."

Mr. Bridges now took charge of Ooshooia, he, his wife, Mr. Lewis and his wife, and another, Mr. Resyek, being stationed there. When Bishop Stirling returned in 1872 he found the mission all well and cheerful, the appearance of the mission settlement very promising. Stirling House (the iron house) occupied a fine position, and front and rear gardens admirably laid out, six native families immediately around occupying the surrounding land enclosed with a capital wire fencing a number of wigwams of a superior sort scattered up and down, everything looking bright and progressive. Especially the habits of the natives surprised him, for he found a softened, respectful and receptive population, and was able to report a native Christian nucleus formed in the centre of Tierra del Fuego. On this occasion 36 Indians were baptized, adults and children, and 7 couples joined together in Christian marriage. This service took place in the open air, at which 150 persons took part. The responses of the candidates were firmly and intelligently made.

The baptized had organized evening worship spontaneously and were meeting in the houses of one another for prayer and praise. One evening especially, the Bishop, who was present, spoke of it thus: "A more touching encouraging assembly for prayer I never was at. The prayers were beautifully uttered, deeply reverent in tone, eloquent in expression and full of pathos. I rejoice to have lived to witness so marked a proof of past success, so hopeful an indication of greater spiritual triumphs in the future." It is satisfactory also to know that this new religious manifestation had a background of consistent tenacity, and has gone on. There is now a Christian village at Ooshooia with cottages instead of wigwams, a church, a schoolhouse and an orphanage. The baptismal register shows a long list of names. They have the Gospel of St. Luke, St. John, and the Acts of the Apostles in their own tongue, and were very much interested to see their language for the first time in print.

In former times if a ship happened to be cast

away it was certain death at the hands of the natives attended with the utmost cruelty. In 1869 an American ship the "Dreadnaught," was wrecked off Cape Penas, the N. E. of Tierra del Fuego; twenty-two men, a boy and a stewardess were thus driven on a shore where they expected nothing but cruelty and death. What was their surprise to find that the Indians offered them no violence but treated them well. Nor is this all. In May, 1882, the "San Jose" of the Argentine Republic, was wrecked some 65 miles away from the Mission. Knowing of the Mission station they despatched a whale boat to Ooshooia to summon the "Allan Gardiner" to their rescue. Mr. Bridges soon made friends with the natives of the Ona tribe, and during the eleven days the crew of the wrecked vessel were at Sloggett bay, they received no ill treatment. This formed an introduction of mission work amongst that interesting people.

In connection with this Capt. Bove, of the Italian navy and employed in the exploring expedition on board the "San Jose," when she was wrecked, writes, "The presence of the English missionaries in Tierra del Fuego has undoubtedly modified the character of a great part of the inhabitants of the Beagle Channel. So rapid is the improvement, so great are the sacrifices which the good missionaries impose on themselves, that I believe in a few years we shall be able to say of all the Fuegians what is now said of Pallalaia, "he was one of the most quarrelsome, the most dishonest, the most superstitious of the inhabitants of Tierra del Fuego, and he now lives under the shadow of the cross a model of virtue and a pattern of industry."

The King of Italy, anxious to express his grateful sense of the noble services performed by the mission party on this occasion, presented the South American Missionary Society with a gold medal and an official letter of thanks. These natives of Fuego we must remember were denounced by no less an authority than Darwin whilst engaged as a naturalist in the "Beagle" in 1851, as being savages without one single element of elevation or civilization, and that the attempt to Christianize them must be abandoned since they were incapable of progress. In Jan., 1870, Mr. Darwin wrote, "The success of the Tierra del Fuego Mission is most wonderful, and charms me, as I always prophesied utter failure. It is a grand success. I shall feel proud if your committee think fit to elect me an honorary member of your Society. Mr. Darwin became a subscriber of £5 to the Society. In March, 1881, he wrote "It is truly wonderful what Mr. Bridges has told you about their honesty and their language. I certainly should have predicted that not all the missionaries in the world could have done what has been done." This Society is prosecuting work with vigor on the east coast of South America. In the Argentine Republic it has nine important spheres of missions; in Uruguay two; in Brazil three, and on the west coast, Chili three; in all numbering