

at Bang-Kah. At every point the good work is progressing, and there is good ground to hope that ignorance and superstition will soon disappear, and the sun of righteousness enlighten every part of this beautiful island.

Missionary Cabinet.

ELIOT AND BRAINERD.

JOHAN ELIOT, "the Apostle of the Indians," as he was called, was a native of England, born in 1604. All that is known about his early life is that he was the son of eminently pious parents, and that he gave his heart to God at a very early period and became a faithful disciple of Christ. In addition to his good home training he derived much advantage from the teaching and example of Thomas Hooker, a clergyman in the neighbouring village of Baddow who had resigned his charge and opened a school there. Eliot finished his education at Cambridge University and was distinguished for his love of languages and for his proficiency in Greek and Hebrew. On leaving Cambridge he became assistant to Mr. Hooker in his school and so continued till 1631 when he left for America, to which country Mr. Hooker followed him two years afterwards. Soon after landing on the then barren shores of New England he became pastor of a small congregation at Roxbury, about a mile from Boston, which continued to be his home during a period of nearly sixty years. Here he preached with amazing power to his fellow immigrants and from this place went forth from time to time to preach the Gospel among the native Indians, many of whom had their haunts in the neighbouring forests. With a view to promote their social and spiritual welfare, Eliot spent some fifteen years in learning their difficult language. In this he not only succeeded, but he also reduced their language to writing, published a grammar and dictionary, and in course of time translated the Bible into the language of the natives. It is said that Eliot's Indian Bible was the first edition of the Scriptures published in America. And certainly he was the first who undertook systematically

to teach these children of the forest the Christian religion. His desire for their conversion became a passion and occupied his whole thoughts. Had it not been for his excellent wife, he would frequently have deprived himself and his family of the necessities of life in his efforts to elevate the red man. It was in the year 1646 that he preached his first sermon to them. The spirit of enquiry which his earnest words called forth was very encouraging. One after another of the Indians questioned him. They asked him "how he came to know Jesus Christ" and if God could understand prayers in the Indian language? It was not long before many of the Indians brought their children to be instructed. Schools were established for their benefit. Then he saw that no permanent good could be accomplished until the people were taught the industries of civilized life: he had them collected together into villages and set them to clearing and cultivating the land, building houses and making roads. Several settlements of this kind were founded. Whitefield visited some of these places many years afterwards and was struck with astonishment at the great change that had been wrought; "he could scarcely distinguish the Indians from the English." He gradually extended the scope of his missionary efforts, sometimes travelling long distances and meeting with many difficulties and hardships in prosecuting his labours of love. He had no missionary society at his back and many a time had to look to God for food and lodging. Sometimes his life was in danger from those who were opposed to his preaching but he "endured hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." In course of time, others, hearing of his success, gave him such encouragement and assistance as they could. The work prospered in the hands of native teachers and preache 3, so that in 1680 he could say,—“Our praying Indians on the islands and on the mainland amount to some thousands.” His wife died before him at the age of eighty-four. On the 20th of may 1690 this missionary hero passed to his reward at the ripe age of eighty-six. His last words were,—“Pray, pray, pray! Welcome joy! Come Lord Jesus!” His mantle fell upon others who took up the good work. On the island of Martha's Vineyard, the Mayhews, father and son,