

8 of the 62nd Ps., "My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defence; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory. The rock of my strength and my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, ye people, pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us."

Among his last words written are the following:—

"I am passing through the furnace, but blessed be my heavenly Shepherd, He is with me and I shall not want. He has kept me in perfect peace, and my soul rests and waits only upon Him. . . . All I pray for is that I may patiently await His good pleasure, whether it be for life or for death and that whether I live or die, it may be for His glory. I trust poor Fuegia and South America will not be abandoned. Missionary seed has been sown here and the Gospel message ought to follow. If I have a wish for the good of my fellow men, it is that the Tierra del Fuego Mission may be prosecuted with vigor and the work in South America commenced. Grant, O Lord, that we may be instrumental in commencing this great and blessed work; but shouldest Thou see fit in Thy providence to hedge up our way, and that we should languish and die here, I beseech Thee to raise up others and to send forth laborers into this harvest."

The last words written in the diary were:—

"Sept. 5, 1851.—Great and marvellous are the loving kindnesses of my gracious God unto me. He has preserved me hitherto, and four days, although without food without any feelings of hunger or thirst."

In Capt. Gardiner's papers he had sketched out a plan of a mission bearing the title of the South American Mission and having the three fold object of supplying the spiritual wants of our own fellow-countrymen, the Roman Catholics and the heathen in South America.

This was the origin and this was the plan of the South American Missionary Society.

The tragic end of these first missionaries far from deterring missionary effort in this direction only increased it; it taught them, however, a caution which was well heeded.

In 1853 the keel of a missionary schooner, the "Allan Gardiner," of 200 tons, was laid in Dartmouth Harbour for the missionaries. In 1854 she sailed under the command of Parker Snow who with his wife were indefatigable in the pioneering work. They settled a station at Kippel Island, one of the West Falklands, where natives from Tierra del Fuego might be brought and receive instruction. Two years later the Rev. G. Pakenham Despard, together with the Rev. Allan Gardiner, the only son of the founder of the mission, and others, went out to strengthen the mission. A constant intercourse was kept up between the Fuegian natives and the station at Keppel. Much pains was taken to gain the confidence of the

natives, and Mr. Despard, the Superintendent of the Mission, visited Tierra del Fuego and remained for a month on the coast, bringing back with him three men and their wives with younger lads as visitors. An attempt was made to impart to these a little religious elementary knowledge, and so friendly did they seem that it was thought prudent for the missionaries to attempt to establish a station in their island home. The missionaries thought they knew the danger and were willing to brave it for Christ's sake, thinking that the ferocity of the natives had been overstated. Mr. Phillips was the leader and he was fearlessly supported by Capt. Fell, of the "Allan Gardiner." The place selected was Woollya, in Navarin Island, where they went on shore on Nov. 1st. They took six days preparing their mission house. On Sunday, the 6th, they landed and whilst engaged in Divine service the natives surrounded the missionaries and massacred the whole party. Only the cook of the vessel who had been left on board escaped to tell the tale.

The natives who had accompanied them and were friendly were yet far too weak in principles to withstand their own people. One young Fuegian, however, who had been at the mission station at Keppel, was seen at the time of the massacre to wring his hands in unavailing distress.

This young man, Okokko, so earnestly implored to be taken back to Keppel in the ship which was sent in search of the missionaries that he prevailed over the scruples and hesitation of the captain. He and his wife thus became the means of the surviving missionaries progressing with their difficult task of acquiring the Fuegian language. It is not a little remarkable that the survivors never flinched from their work and determined to persevere, remembering their master's words: "No man having put his hand to the plough and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God."

For three years, however, no visit was paid by any missionary to the coast of Tierra del Fuego.

In 1862 Mr. Despard brought home the "Allan Gardiner" for repairs to England, leaving Mr. Bridges in charge at Keppel. In January, 1863, she again returned to her work with the Rev. W. H. Stirling as Superintendent of the mission, who was greatly surprised and encouraged to find the progress made by Mr. Bridges in learning the unwritten language of the Fuegian and reducing it to grammatical form, also at the now acquired civilized English manners of the young Fuegian Okokko.

As soon as possible, intercourse was again resumed with Tierra del Fuego. Mr. Bridges surprised the natives by his knowledge of their language and they were also pleased at the safety of Okokko, whom they never expected to see again.

The arrival of the "Allan Gardiner" with a new missionary and a new captain, both speaking peaceful words, perplexed them, for they well remembered their deeds of murder.

When their visitors instead of executing ven-