

who are exceeding rich men, have to contend with a great plague, and I am quite sure that you will be disposed to laugh when you hear that this great plague is *rabbits*. But, sir, although harmless in our country, they have become great pests in these colonies. They burrow, eat, and destroy the grapes. I have met with squatters who spent £5,000 stg., and, after destroying some hundreds of thousands of them, they seemed not the least diminished. Sparrows are also great pests to those who grow fruit, and there is a continual siege held against them. These creatures are not indigenous to the colonies, but were imported, and have proved themselves so troublesome, that all men here would not only have them exported, but transported. I hope that you will all think this enough at present. In my next, if God spares me, I shall be able to tell you something of the Islands.

I remain yours, with respect,

JOHN GOODWILL.

P. S.—If any more boxes of clothing will be sent for the heathen, please do not make the material up into garments. Ironware, such as hatchets, hoes, &c., should be sent.

J. G.

### NEW HEBRIDEAN SKETCHES, NO. 3.

In a former sketch I described the appearance and manners of the natives of Eastern Polynesia; now I will add a few facts to those which appeared in the *Record*, respecting the natives of Western Polynesia.

The personal appearance of the natives of the New Hebrides, in many respects, reminds us of the negro. They have short woolly hair, thick lips, flat noses, and dark skin. Besides these, they resemble the negro in many other respects, both in appearance and manners. Like the negro, they are very excitable and impulsive, and have a very keen sense of the ludicrous. They also possess great buoyancy of spirit, and hard indeed is that work which will prevent a native from singing a merry song. Indeed, the harder the work, the louder will be the song. If, for instance, they are carrying upon their shoulders a spar for a ship, they will sing so loud that you will hear them long before they come in view. But, though like the negro in these particulars, the natives of the New Hebrides are unlike them in others. The colour of their skin is much lighter; their persons much better formed; their mouths smaller, and their manner much more retiring and less proud. In colour they are between our North American Indian and the negro, not so light as the former, nor yet as black as the latter, a kind of coffee colour. In size, they are smaller than our Nova Scotians, the average weight of the men being only 130 lbs., and the average height 5 feet 7 inches. They age very soon, especially the women. A woman is quite old at the age of forty-five years. But they never think themselves too old to marry. The women marry from the ages of twelve to fifty. The young ladies pop the question as often as the gentlemen. They make engagements by proxy. Their families are all small. Boys are much more respected than girls. Man is a monarch, and woman a slave, on the heathen islands. Every person does as it seems good in his own eyes, and might is right. The natives are very willing to assist you in acquiring a knowledge of their language. Amongst them there are some superior speakers.

Generally the chiefs are much finer looking than their people, and seem to possess more bodily and mental vigour. In all the Pacific Isles, so far as I know, chieftainship is hereditary. If there are any tomahawks or muskets to be given as presents to the chiefs, or indeed any other favours to be shown them, then almost every man you meet is a chief; but if you wish to settle a teacher on some heathen island, and ask for the chief, then none of them are chiefs; or, in other words, it is the missionary's property they wish, and not the