

who live with her quite schooled in *domestic* affairs, so that she is more free to devote her time to teaching. Some of the girls can prepare a dinner and lay a table most creditably indeed, without any assistance or oversight from Mrs. G. This training is a great advantage to them after they leave the mission house. We see a marked difference in the management of household affairs between these girls and those who have had no such privilege. Many of them are very neat and clean about their person. All are improving in this form of civilization as well as in many other respects. But doubtless Mrs. G. tells you all these things in her letters so that I cannot give you any information respecting the customs and habits of the Aneiteumese that would be new or interesting. But we see many results around us here to encourage us also to go forward in the work—believing that God will give increase to the seed sown in faith.

We hope to hear from you soon. We have not had any intelligence from Nova Scotia since we left Boston. * * * *

Yours truly,
BESSIE JOHNSTON.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF MISSIONS IN WESTERN POLYNESIA.

From the Missionary Magazine and Chronicle.

Throughout Western Polynesia the Gospel is addressed to man in his most degraded and revolting state. There is no species of wickedness practiced by heathens in any part of the world which may not find its parallel in those Islands. Barbarous rites, nameless abominations, and cannibalism, in its most fearful forms, characterize the whole population. These dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty.

When the honoured and lamented Williams returned from England to his arduous work in the year 1838, these Islands were enshrouded in the densest heathen darkness, having never been visited by a messenger of the Gospel. With a special view to their evangelization, the "Camden" was purchased; and on the first cruise of that vessel amongst these barbarous Islands, Williams and Harris were called to lay down their lives. Great was the shock throughout the Missionary Church when the mournful tidings spread abroad; but the work was not suffered to stand still or be abandoned, though its commencement was a baptism of blood. A small part of their remains, recovered from the savages, was afterwards removed to Samoa, and interred amidst the tears of that infant Church, on the 24th of March, 1840; and at a meeting of the Missionaries held on the following day, it was resolved, "that the Mission to Western Polynesia should be prosecuted," each Missionary undertaking the voyage in rotation. From that time to the present this plan has been acted upon, with occasional assistance from the Mission at the Hervey Group, and many Native Teachers have been landed on the on theseveral Islands of Western Polynesia; and although numbers have fallen at the hands of those they sought to save, in some of these new fields of labour the results have been strikingly illustrative of the power of the Gospel, when attended by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

The Islands included in our present historical sketch are known by the names of the *New Hebrides*, *Loyalty* and *Britannia* Groups.

NEW HEBRIDES.

There are six Islands in this Group which have been brought in a greater or less degree under influence of the Gospel.

Ancileum.—This Island was first visited by a Missionary ship in 1841, and two Samoan evangelists were landed under favourable auspices. These devoted men had, indeed, much to endure in carrying on their labours, and it was not until after some years of toil and privation that they were privileged to see many, both adults and children, seeking instruction, amongst whom were a few who had abandoned the heathen practices in which they formerly delighted. Subsequently, additional Teachers were introduced, who carried on the work until 1848, when the Rev. J. Geddie of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, arrived at Ancileum.