

ORIGINAL POETRY.

THE MISSIONARY "OUTWARD BOUND."

Written, Sept., 1837.—Lat. 50° N., Long. 19° W.

ALONE, alone, yet not alone,
Over the trackless main;
With a noiseless step we hurry on,
Where the dark sea-kings reign:
For many a mile from land and home are we,
And our couch is on the crest of the restless, sea.

Around, around, on either side
The playful porpoise leaps;
The stormy petrel skims the tide,
And above, the sea gull sweeps;
No sunny isle—no green spot we descry,
All is the deep blue sea, and the azure sky.

Along, along, where duty leads,
By love's constraint we go,
A path no foot save the sea bird treads,
While the dolphin rolls below:
We pass the beds where the wave-wrecked mariners sleep,
With their sea-weed shrouds, a hundred fathoms deep.

Sweep on, sweep on, ye restless winds,
We hail your welcome force;
For we go to sever a chain which binds
With a desperate withering curse.
The poor, enslaved, benighted heathen more
Than the galley slave, chained for life to the galling oar.

REVIEW.

A Narrative of Missionary Enterprises in the South Sea Islands; with remarks upon the Natural History of the Islands, Origin, Languages, Traditions, and Usages of the Inhabitants. By JOHN WILLIAMS, of the London Missionary Society. London, 1837. pp. xviii. 590. 8vo.

(Continued from page 241.)

THE immediate scene of the Rev. Author's labours since he joined the Mission in 1817, has been in the Island of Raieteu, the largest and most central of the Society Islands, about 100 miles from Tahiti.

The two groups, about which the greatest degree of information is given in the work before us, are said to be the Hervey, and the Samoa, or Navigators Islands, both of which are new fields of missionary labour. The second chapter is rich with information respecting the first of these groups, and we think we cannot better entertain our readers in this part of our notice, than to place before them copious selections from it.

The Hervey Islands are seven in number—MAUKE, MITARO and ATIU, MANGAIA and RAROTONGA, HERVEY'S ISLAND and AITUTAKI. They are from 500 to 600 miles west of Tahiti. Very little was known of them until visited by myself and colleague, Mr. Bourne, in 1823.

Here follows a description of each island, with its position, size, and population.

HERVEY'S ISLAND, from which the group takes its name, is really composed of two small islets, 19° 18' S., 158° 45' W. long. It was discovered by Captain Cook, and by him named Hervey, in honour of Captain Hervey, R. N., one of the Lords of the Admiralty, and afterwards Earl of Bristol. It is surrounded by a reef, into which there is no entrance. I visited it in 1823, intending to place a native teacher there, as I expected to find a considerable population; but on learning that, by their frequent and exterminating wars, they had reduced themselves to about sixty in number, I did not fulfil my intention. Some six or seven years after this, I visited the same island again, and found that this miserable remnant of the former population had

fought so frequently and so desperately, that the only survivors were five men, three women, and a few children! and at that period there was a contention among them as to which should be king!

"MAUKE is a small low island, discovered by myself and Mr. Bourne, in 1823, in lat. 23° S., 157° 30' W. long. It is about fifteen miles in circumference. By an invasion of a large fleet of canoes, laden with warriors from a neighbouring island, about three years prior to our arrival, the population previously considerable, was, by the dreadful massacre that ensued, reduced to about 300."

"MITARO is a still smaller island of the same description. It lies about twenty miles north-west of Mauke. By famine and invasion this island has likewise been almost depopulated; there not being 100 persons remaining.

"ATIU is a larger island than either Mauke or Mitaro. It was discovered by Captain Cook, and is situated 20° S., 158° 15' W. It is about twenty miles in circumference; not mountainous, but hilly, and a beautiful verdant spot. We found the inhabitants something under 2,000. Captain Cook called it Watene.

"MANGAIA was also discovered by Captain Cook, and is situated lat. 21° 57' S., 158° 7' W. long., being about 120 miles south of Atiu. Mangaia is about twenty or five and twenty miles in circumference, and moderately high. The island is rather singular in its form and appearance; a broad ridge girding the hills, at about 100 feet from their base. The foliage is rich; the population between 2,000 and 3,000. These four islands differ from the Society Islands in the very important feature, that the surrounding reef joins the shore: there is consequently neither passage for boats, nor any safe anchorage for vessels.

"The sixth, and most important island of the group, is RAROTONGA. This splendid island escaped the ravaging researches of Captain Cook, and was found by myself, in 1823. It is a mass of mountains, which are high, and present a remarkable romantic appearance. It is situated in lat. 21° 30' S., 160° W. long. It has several good boat harbours, is about thirty miles in circumference, and is surrounded by a reef. The population is about 6,000 or 7,000.

"The seventh and last island is AITUTAKI, which was discovered by Captain Cook. Like most of its companions in the group, its land-scapes are rich and variegated; it is hilly rather than mountainous, and surrounded by a reef which extends a very considerable distance from the shore. There is a very good entrance for a boat on the west side of the island. It is about eighteen miles in circumference, and has a population of about 2,000 persons. The situation is 18° 54' S. lat., 159° 41' W. long.

"In order to give the reader a correct idea of the islands generally, it will be necessary to divide the islands into three distinct classes, and describe each class separately. The first is the mountainous. The islands of this class, with but few exceptions, are truly splendid. The immense mountains rise gradually from their base, till their lofty summits are lost amid the clouds of heaven; some are broken into a thousand fantastic shapes; here a pyramid piercing the skies, and there a spire presenting its apex above the clouds by which it is girt; and then you see a precipitous rock, lifting itself up in solemn grandeur, and frowning over your head like the mouldering battlements of some immense castle. The sides of these magnificent heights are clothed with bright verdure of varied shades. Beauty, grandeur, wildness, and sublimity, are so fantastically blended, and contrasted, as to elicit the most varied and delightful feelings. Then there is the ocean beneath you, stretching away in boundless majesty, until it appears to embrace the heavens in the distance. At the base of the mountains are luxuriant and fertile valleys, intermingled with the stately bread-fruit tree, the banana, the Brazilian Plumb, and many other tropical productions; some of which are trees of gigantic growth, and richest foliage,—all equally beautiful, but