

The tribe of this district, as those of Maitland, Sydney and Melbourne, may now, with a few individual exceptions, be numbered among the things that were. Why do they so fade away before Europeans? is a question which has frequently been asked, but to which, many suppose, it is difficult to give an answer. I shall only here endeavour to remove some of the difficulties connected with this question, which, however, will be sufficient to show that the Puritanism, which the *Westminster Review* denounces as the cause of the destruction of the Polynesians, has not injured this race. The Wesleyan ministers in their report make the following statement:—"The condition of the aborigines becomes more deplorable as colonization advances. Their lands are rapidly passing into the hands of the settlers, their gain is driven away by new-comers, and their esculent roots are destroyed by the white man's sheep. Thus deprived of the means of subsistence, and not daring to venture into the interior, lest they should be murdered as intruders by other tribes, they generally resort to begging or pilfering from the colonists, with whom they are in consequence often brought into painful collision. Loathsome diseases still further aggravate the evils under which they are wasting away." "The shooting of a native," says Mr Jameson, "is not regarded in the jurisprudence of the bush—as a murder." Their traffic with Europeans is almost exclusively in intoxicating liquors, which their constitution cannot stand as well as that of Europeans, and the demoralising influence of the convict population on them can hardly be estimated. The remnants of tribes, consequently, which are found scattered about the seaport towns are poor specimens of this race in general; and these circumstances account for those erroneous views which have been entertained by some ethnologists about this people as an inferior race to whom the term Alforas has been restricted. Some tribes are much blacker and more diminutive than other tribes, which are not inferior in personal appearance or intellect to the New Zealanders. The former obviously belong to the black race of Polynesia. Missionary operations among them have been almost exclusively confined to the remnants of tribes which are scattered among the European settlers, which circumstance goes far to account for the failure of Missions to this

ruined people. Their Polyglottism presents peculiar difficulties in the way of missionary success among them, but not greater than those of the Polyglottism of the Western Polynesians. The Moravian missionaries which were labouring among them in Victoria, have of late, returned from their work unsuccessful, complaining of Government interference as the cause, and but few now seem to care for their souls, as there is a general prejudice against them as an unimprovable race,—which is a great mistake.—Some of them who have been taken into schools learn readily, and some travellers speak in high terms of their aptness to learn the English language. Major Mitchell says, "I am convinced that the New Hollanders are not so debased in intellect, as some writers would lead us to suppose, and by kind and good treatment it is easy to gain their lasting affection." My heart bled over those with whom I conversed, for whom I could do but little more than pray. The chief had his war club bound up in a piece of cloth, and, when I found out what it was, I gave him a handkerchief for it. In the evening two New Zealanders called at our hotel, one of whom was tattooed, and the other had rosy cheeks like a good-looking European, which is a common circumstance among their children in the south of their island. They are a superior race and far advanced in the arts and sciences. Some of them are ship-owners and captains of vessels, and transact business with diligence at the Banks of the Colonies. These two young men had been to the New Hebrides, and knew the missionaries at Aneiteum.—The number of aborigines in Australia has been estimated at fifteen thousand, but, as there has only yet been a small part of this great country explored, for the want of more navigable rivers, the population of the aborigines cannot yet be correctly estimated. In the evening the steamer called and we were soon off for Sydney. Meanwhile the heavens were black with clouds, and loud peals of thunder broke over our heads, which soon gave way to a serene sunshine, while every whit in God's temple uttered his praise. On the 28th, after fulfilling our mission to the Colonies by preaching missionary sermons and addressing religious meetings, at which about £900 were collected for Foreign Missions, we sailed for Eastern Polynesia.

Sydney and Melbourne are much bet-