

backs. To get the necessary quantity of leather, the missionaries taught the people how to tan skins. And now all set to work to make the leather. All kinds of animals were speedily killed for their skins; and old dogs, shaggy goats, wild kittens, every creature in short that could be spared, was thus robbed of its jacket to find covers for the word of God. The printing office was almost like a tan-yard; and as you passed through the village, almost every hut had a skin of some sort stretched on a board, and drying in the sun. So great was the eagerness of the people for the books, that binders enough could not be procured, till every chief sent one or more men to learn the art, and help to supply the wants. Most cheering was it to the missionaries to see the people thus employed; and though the season was one of great toil, it was also one of great enjoyment. For many weeks and months this eagerness lasted, and the demand was so great, that thirty or forty canoes were often seen in the bay, waiting five or six weeks for their supply. Each canoe would generally bring eight or ten persons, and these would hand to the missionaries a large roll of plantain leaves, each of which had an order on it for one or more copies from people that could not come.

One evening about sun-set, a canoe arrived from Tahiti with five men to purchase Bibles. The moment they landed they hastened to the missionaries' dwelling, and asked for "the word of Luke." No copies were ready, but they were told if they would wait till the following morning, they should have as many as they needed; and were recommended to seek a lodging in a village. But they were afraid to go away, least some other person might come and take the copies they were so earnestly waiting for. So gathering some dry cocoanut leaves for a bed, and wrapping themselves in their bark-cloth cloaks, they lay down upon the ground just outside the missionary's house, and there slept till the

morning broke. There the missionary found them in the morning, and seeing their great anxiety, lost no time in supplying to each a copy, and one for a sister, and another for a mother of one of them. Each wrapped his book in a piece of white bark-cloth, put it into his bosom, bid the missionary "good bye," and without eating or drinking, hastened to the boat, hoisted the sail, and steered away full of joy towards home.

Young reader, does not this great eagerness of the poor South Sea islanders put many in this land of Bibles to the blush? Oh! let us follow their deep interest in God's book, and as it abounds in our dwellings, let us never be condemned for our neglect and carelessness respecting it.

#### Welcoming of Spring in China.

The Bible tells us that all God's works praise him: They show how wise he is in his counsels, and how wonderful in his doings. Here we may see his greatness, there his goodness, everywhere his glory. Most true is it that "the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead." Now this is the case in every part of creation, and through every period of time. But perhaps at no season are there so many objects calculated to carry home through the eye, to the understanding and heart, the conviction that God is present, and that he is working everywhere, as in the spring—that pleasant time through which you have lately passed. The bright sun, the bursting leaves, the early flowers, the thickly-clustered bloom, the garden, the orchard, the field, and numerous other objects full of life and loveliness, speak of Him whose providence and presence are thus so plainly declared.

But how is it that you see God in his works, and can trace there his wisdom, power and goodness? It is because you have his word. Without