

as those of others, who were sent out to their assistance, greatly damped the zeal of the society; but they still persevered, and God has at length opened better prospects, and the benevolent intentions of converting the Heathen to Christianity, seem now to be realizing. The cruel superstition which was depopulating by its murders the South Sea Islands, is giving way; the dreadful abominations which deformed them are disappearing from before the light of the Gospel. In nine of the islands their savage customs are abolished; infanticide is uncommon; their prisoners are exchanged, not murdered and eaten. Society is now cemented, the ties of affection acknowledged, decency and order practised, and the bloody altars of their gods transformed into the altars of a crucified Redeemer, cherishing piety and peace. "It was God Almighty," said the Royal convert of Otaheite, "who sent your Mission to the remainder of my people."

Much attention is at length paid by the Missionaries to the civilization of the natives, and the directors have been of late years much more careful in selecting proper persons for converting the Heathen. They have discovered, from dear bought experience, that zeal alone is not sufficient, but that many rare qualifications ought to be united in the man who assumes the important profession of preaching the Gospel to savage nations. He must recommend himself to their attention by promoting their temporal as well as their spiritual comforts. Accordingly measures are taking to introduce the sugar cane and cotton plant into Otaheite, and the neighbouring islands. This will give employment to the people, beget industrious habits, gradually open and enlarge their minds, sharpen their understandings, render it more easy for them to comprehend moral truths, and the nature of divine worship. One single circumstance, which appears in some degree fortuitous, though certainly directed by the wisdom of Providence, seems to have done more towards converting the natives of the islands to Christianity, than all the labours of the Missionaries for twenty years; it was this: that Pomare, instead of massacring his prisoners, as had always been the custom, treated them with great lenity and moderation, which was productive of the happiest consequences; for, all exclaimed, that the true religion must be good, because it produced so good effects. They declared also, that their gods were cruel and false, had deceived them,