

say, "none but those who are in similar circumstances with ourselves, know what it is to live in the midst of professed heathens and uncivilized barbarians." Notwithstanding their trials, the Missionaries continued to improve themselves in the knowledge of the language, and were now able to preach to the people with some measure of fluency. They thus speak of the first result of their labours: "What little we have been able to say in the name of the Lord, has drawn this enquiry. How is it Cook, Clarke, Vancouver, Bligh, and others who have been here, never told us any thing of what you tell us of Jesus Christ?" The answer was, they knew less of the language than we do; and though they know the name of Jesus Christ, they knew not the customs of Jesus Christ, and did not hold them. Their first attempt to impart instruction to the young, (April 1799) met with as little success. So they write at this time: "Brother Broomhall's attempt to instruct the child of Tearay to read does not succeed: savage ignorance and brutal freedom are the delight of the natives. The children cannot bear to have their desires crossed, their actions prohibited, or their wild ramblings controlled."

Mr. Lewis, one of the missionaries, died at this time. (28th November 1799.) His case had been the source of great grief to the brethren, as they had required to separate him from their communion in consequence of the irregularity of his conduct. On the 29th November 1800, the missionaries write: "Great preparations making for war,—we intercede at a throne of grace." A month after this date, the ship *Albion* arrived from New South Wales, bringing letters from their former friends: the governor of that colony had, by the same ship, written to the king Pomare, commending the missionaries to his kind protection. These were all fitted to cheer the drooping spirits of the brethren, but the same vessel brought them tidings of a different kind—the capture of the ship *Duff* while on her second voyage to the South Seas, and of the sufferings of those who were designed to aid them in their labours. This casualty defeated the pious intentions of the Christians in Britain, to send out to Tahiti thirty additional labourers. Nevertheless, in lieu of these, eight were afterwards sent off by the Royal Admiral, and arrived in safety at the island on the 10th of July 1801.

In the spring of 1802, two of the brethren, Messrs. Elder and Nott, who had now acquired the Tahitian language, set out on their first missionary tour. They preached wherever they could find hearers, and testified against the cruel superstitions of the people. At this time a war broke out between the king and certain of the chiefs, and as it arose out of circumstances connected with their idolatry, it was carried on with much cruelty on both sides. The missionaries on this occasion seem to have been much afraid; for, in order to secure themselves against attack, they fortified the missionary dwelling, by the aid of a number of British seamen; and for some time they kept watch day and night. When hostilities ceased, and their foreign friends had left the island, they found themselves in no better

favour with the people. They refused to come out to hear the word, and if at any time they came out, it was rather to annoy the preacher than to be profited by his discourse. Notwithstanding the testimony that had been borne against idolatry, they still practised their heathen rites. They continued to offer human beings in sacrifice, and mothers continued to murder their infant children. These were causes sufficient to reduce the population of the island; but in addition to these, an epidemic disease, raging at this time, (20th August 1803,) reduced the number of the people to such an extent, that the missionaries assure us, they would not amount to 3000, being not the half of what they were when they landed on the island.

A few days after this the king died. (3d September 1803.) He had all along countenanced the mission, and by his death the brethren found themselves deprived of a friend. They continued to preach the word, but the natives, so far from receiving it with joy, made the preachers the objects of their ridicule and scorn.

At this time (January 1805) they prepared a catechism, and in writing the language, it may be noted, that they adopted the Roman character, and with the view of leading the people more readily to learn the letters, they gave them a Tahitian name. King Pomare the Second was the first pupil who wished to be taught the art of writing, (1st January 1807): and after acquiring it, he addressed a letter to the London Missionary Society, in which, among other things, he promised to abolish the worship of the god Oro.

In the autumn of the same year, Mr. Jefferson, one of the missionaries who had come out with the ship *Duff*, died. His death was a great trial to the brethren, as he had been an able and devoted labourer in the vineyard. A civil war now broke out between the chiefs and the king; and as the district of Matavai, where the missionaries had their dwelling, seemed to be the place where it was likely to rage, the king advised that their wives and children should take shelter in a vessel in the harbour. All attempts to reconcile the parties proving ineffectual, the missionaries resolved for the present on leaving Tahiti. Several of them accordingly sailed to the neighbouring island of Huahine, and others remained with the king, in the hope there might be a change in his favour; but, Pomare being defeated, they subsequently joined their fugitive brethren, and, with the exception of one who remained with Pomare at Eimeo, and another in Huahine, all of them at this time (16th October 1809) sailed to Port Jackson.

The rebels in Tahiti, meeting with no opposition, ravaged the country, burnt and demolished the mission-house and garden, and in a brief space destroyed the labour of years. After a tedious and dangerous voyage, the brethren arrived at Port Jackson, (17th February 1810); they remained here until the autumn of 1811, when, receiving an invitation from the king to return, they sailed again for the island.

(To be continued.)