

cently died. He was aged, had long been friendly to the missionaries, was a very regular attendant upon religious services, "had an intense and never-ceasing desire to be a member of the Church, but was hopelessly entangled with heathenism even in its worst forms. It seemed impossible for him to refrain from dabbling in superstitions and pagan ceremonies as long as any physical strength remained."

ISLANDS OF THE SEA.

—From Fiji a missionary writes: "I had 80 miles of a march last month, through the Namosi and Wainimala regions. It rained almost every moment during the trip; indeed, I was only dry when in bed, or perhaps when preaching. I crossed 70 fords one day, and generally had 30 to 40 to make daily. Those mountain fords are not to be laughed at during heavy rains. To be swimming for life, with boots and clothes on, in the middle of a torrent full of great rocks, is more interesting than comfortable." And it appears that all the troubles there are not from the floods or the cannibals, for "the Roman Catholic priests have recently been through Nasauoko, exhibiting pictures of Methodist missionaries falling head-first into *Inferno*, where Mephistopheles is represented as waiting for them with pitchfork, horns, tail, and all. They (the priests) frightened one old woman into 'Mother Church,' and then *volens volens* baptized a dying youth who could not prevent them."

—From Tahiti and adjacent islands a band of not less than 150 evangelists have gone forth, carrying the message of salvation to other benighted tribes, and yet less than a century ago the ancestors of these evangelists were living in the grossest darkness and superstition.

—Situated to the northeast of the Australian continent, New Guinea has a length of 1400 miles, a breadth reaching at certain points to 500 miles, an area

of 300,000 square miles, occupied by nearly 1,000,000 of souls, lamentably degraded types of humanity. Missions were commenced in 1872 by the London Society's missionaries, Murray, Macfarlane, and Gill. There are 53 stations on the southeast coast, and a dozen churches with about 500 members, and some 2000 children under instruction. This great field has the superintendence of 6 missionaries, aided by 30 South Sea Islanders and 20 New Guinea teachers. Six of the languages have been reduced to writing, and books published in these tongues, crowned with the translation of the New Testament into Motu, the speech of the most vigorous trading people on the southeast.

—"The hell of the Pacific." Such is the name given to the port of Apia, Samoa. And it is not created by the cannibals. For nine months of the year that harbor is full of all kinds of vessels, and every third building is a grog-shop. An attempt is now on foot to raise some £100 to establish a sailors' rest, with coffee-room, reading-room, etc.

—The remnant of the Maori race in New Zealand numbers about 38,000, of whom 18,000 are under the care of the Church Missionary Society, while of the rest half are Wesleyan or Roman Catholic, and half in a state of semi-heathenism. The class last mentioned is composed of such as never embraced Christianity, or else apostatized in the dreadful wars between the natives and the English settlers. There are some 30 Maori clergymen left out of 50 who have been ordained.

—The Netherlands Government has declared that, in view of the high importance which attaches to the beneficial results of missions for the advancement of civilization in the Dutch East Indies, it shall hold itself bound to see that the forces of missions are not weakened by the competition of various societies in one place. The Dutch are a sensible race, if there is no other way to put an end to sectarian divisions.