

and they found on their arrival, that the usual season for vessels sailing from the United States to the South Seas was past. They had some difficulty in obtaining a passage at all. At length they secured one in a small brig of 197 tons, bound for the Sandwich Islands. Though this seemed a roundabout rout, it proved the best and the cheapest open at that time. They sailed from Newburyport on the 28th January 1847. Their vessel was the last of the season and the worst. With his self-sacrificing spirit he gave the best account he could of her accommodations, but in truth they were very inferior, such as missionaries now are seldom called on to endure. The passage was long and tedious extending to nearly six months, during which they encountered storm after storm, as if Satan had roused all the elements to resist the threatened assault on one of his strongholds. Particularly in doubling Cape Horn, they encountered for three weeks a succession of tempests, of which he said those who had only seen an Atlantic storm, could have no idea, in which they were driven so far toward the Antarctic regions, that his wife and children nearly perished from cold, and from which they emerged with their vessel so battered and leaky, that it was for a time doubtful if she would be able to finish her voyage. The difficulties which missionaries at that time had in reaching their fields of labour, in contrast with the ease and comfort with which they can now voyage to any part of the world, marks how British commerce is made to serve the God of missions, and the ships of Tarshish aid in the diffusion of the Gospel. (Isa lx. 9) In this there is a loud call the Church to go up to possess the earth.

On the 17th of July they arrived safely in Honolulu. We may mention as showing his anxiety to save expense, and in this case particularly his fear of discouraging the infant zeal of the church by heavy drafts on her treasury, that on arrival here, he had only a hundred dollars on hand, to meet the further expenses of the mission band. They received a cordial welcome from the American missionaries on the group, and an interest in the mission was excited among the native churches, which contributed \$66 toward its support, and two natives offered their services to accompany them. After a residence here of seven weeks, they obtained

a passage to the Samoan, or Navigator's group, a central point of the missions of the London Missionary Society, from which also their missionary ship usually started in her voyages to the west. They arrived there on the 16th of October. The missionary brethren there had been praying for agents for Western Polynesia, and the arrival of our band was like an answer coming right down from heaven. They were, however, detained here eight months. The delay was trying, but the time spent here Mr. Geddie always regarded as the most important of his preparations for missionary labour. He here became acquainted, practically, with mission work among the heathen. He acquired the Samoan language, which afterwards was of great advantage, enabling him to communicate with the Samoan teachers, who were employed as his assistants. He was also able to render efficient aid to the mission there. He constructed an apparatus for book-binding and taught some of the natives the art. He taught the missionaries how to frame houses after the American fashion. And the missionary, at whose station he was living, having suddenly died, he was able to take charge of the work, preaching in the Samoan language after six months' residence.

We must here observe that the islands of the South Seas are arranged in two great divisions, known as Eastern and Western Polynesia. These are not only distinguished by their geographical position, but are occupied by races differing widely in physical conformation, colour and language. The only exception to this is New Zealand, which by location is connected with the Western Islands, but is inhabited by the same race that occupies the Eastern. It is a branch of the Malay race, speaking dialects of one language from the Sandwich Islands to New Zealand, and even to Madagascar.

Western Polynesia includes all the groups from the Fijis on the East, to New Caledonia on the West and South, and to New Guinea on the North. It includes New Caledonia, the Loyalty Islands, the New Hebrides, the Solomon Islands, New Britain, New Ireland, and, besides many smaller islands, New Guinea, after Australia the largest island in the world, being 1600 miles long and in some places 400 wide. These islands, in number, size and population, far exceed those of the Eastern division. With