

terest, for several years past, in the religious world, both in England and America. We have been informed by the Rev. Dr. Lang, of Sydney, New South Wales, that Mr. Williams had arrived in that colony from London, in the year 1838, with about ten missionaries, from the London Missionary Society, for the Navigators' Islands; an interesting group in the Western Pacific, and had sailed for the Islands, after holding several public meetings in Sydney, and raising about £500 for the mission throughout the colony. It was Mr. Williams' intention, after landing the missionaries destined for the Navigators' Islands in that group, to proceed to another group, situated to the Northward and Eastward, near New Ireland, to ascertain the practicability of establishing a mission there also. He had accordingly landed most of the missionaries at Upolu, one of the Navigators on Samoa group, and had proceeded in the Society's Missionary ship Camden for the Islands in question. He had reached his destination, it seems, and had landed in the Islands of Erromanga and Tanna, the two principal Islands in the group in question; but it would appear, from the relation of a Mr. Cunningham, who had accompanied Mr. W. and his missionary brother, Mr. Harris, on their expedition from Upolu, that the barbarous natives had suddenly attacked the two missionaries with their spears or clubs and put them to death, Mr. Cunningham providentially escaping. It is stated by our contemporaries, that this murder took place in New Zealand. This, Dr. L. has informed us, is incorrect, the New Zealand group being situated far to the Southward of Upolu, while the Islands where the missionaries were murdered are a long way to the Northward, as may be seen by inspecting the chart. Neither is there any certainty for the fact stated by our contemporaries, as to the bodies of the missionaries being devoured by the natives; for while there is no reason to believe that cannibalism prevails in the Islands of Erromanga and Tanna, it is certain that the survivor, on board ship, could not have seen what the natives did with the bodies on shore.

The Islands of Erromanga and Tanna are inhabited by a race very different in their physical conformation from the Polynesians or South Sea Islanders generally. They are of the Papuan or Oceanic negro race; whereas, the Polynesians are near akin to the Malaya. They are also much lower in the scale of civilization than the other South Sea Islanders, and the groups in the Western Pacific, in which they are found, from New Caledonia to New Guinea, are almost altogether unknown, except by name to civilized men. There had been an effort

made to establish a mission in Erromanga and Tanna, so long ago as the year 1824, during the visit of Messrs. Tyerman and Bennet, a deputation from the London Missionary Society to the South Sea Islands; but it failed of success, chiefly, we believe, through the sickness of these Islands at the time. It is possible that during the interval that has since elapsed, they may have been visited and injured in some way or other without provocation, by some unprincipled whaler, either British, French, or American; for such cases are unfortunately not of rare occurrence: and if so, Messrs. Williams and Harris, although in every sense of the word martyrs for the Cross of Christ, have, in reality, as far as the poor ignorant savages are concerned, fallen victims to the desire of vengeance for former aggressions committed upon them by other white men. For all savages are alike in this, that they uniformly revenge any injury they receive from a white man, on the first man of the same color that falls into their hands, whether he has had any knowledge of the injury or not.

Let all good men pray for these poor savages, who have ignorantly, in unbelief, cast from them the cup of salvation. Jesus shall yet reign, even over Erromanga and Tanna, and sweet incense shall ascend from a thousand altars, even prayer and praise, with the voice of melody.—*Watchman of the South.*

---

#### TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

It is the wish of the *Canada Baptist Missionary Society*, to whose possession and management the *Magazine* has now reverted, that it should be the organ of the Denomination in these Provinces, and that it should be devoted to the advancement of knowledge and piety, and to the support of missions and education. In order to secure this end, a Committee has been appointed to superintend its publication, and to advise the Editor in any difficult or perplexing part of his duty. If any profits accrue, they will be entirely devoted to the objects of the Society; for the editor expects no remuneration for his labor. It is therefore earnestly requested, that our agents and friends will exert themselves, to increase the circulation of the present volume.

---

CAMPBELL & BECKET, PRINTERS.