

The magistrate soon decided matters; scarcely a question was asked Mrs. A——. He said he had rarely heard of such iniquitous dealing. The widow's house was given over to her that night, and the man given a month's imprisonment. So with a very thankful heart she thanked the Lord. She remained with her new friends in all seven weeks, and then was able to walk over to our Bible Class, Sunday, Jan 20, hungry to toll of all the way, the Lord had led her, and I need scarcely say that we rejoiced with her.

"O, taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the man that trusteth in Him."—*South African Pioneer.*

## Young People's Department.

### KING EBENEZER.

His heathen name was a rather hard one to pronounce—Thakombau. He lived on one of the Fiji Islands, and his father was a fierce old Cannibal. In the year 1849 a good missionary named James Calvert visited their home, and talked with these two men about the religion of Jesus Christ. The old father would not listen, the son was always attentive and civil, but would not become a Christian himself. The missionary prayed earnestly for years that God would convert these men. When a man died in Fiji his wives had to be strangled and buried beside him, so that they might be able to be his servants again in the spirit world. Each wife would come in her turn bathed, oiled, and robed for this awful ceremony, bid her relatives farewell, then kneel down, have a cord fastened around her neck; then a cloth would be thrown over her head, and she would be strangled in a moment. A crowd of heathen were watching and cheering, as each new victim was slain. When the old king died, the missionary tried very hard to make Thakombau stop this cruel law. But he could not prevent five wives being thus sacrificed. The new king prospered for many years, and would promise the missionary that he would consider the new religion after he had killed all his enemies. But God uses many ways to lead people to Himself. So this prosperity of the king ended. He was beaten in many a battle, and his life was in great danger. His palace was on the island of Ban, although a great many islands were in his kingdom, and their people paid him tribute every year. While feeling very badly over his losses in these wars, God sent a painful disease to his strong body, and he began to think about being a Christian. The missionary came and talked with and prayed for him, and at last he decided in 1854 to kneel to the Christian's God. The big death-drums used only ten days before to call the people of Ban to the temples for a cannibal feast, were now beaten to call them to worship the true God. For three years the king attended all the preaching services and prayer meetings, and though fifty years old, began to learn to read. His little son, seven years old, was his teacher, and was so anxious that his

father should be able to read God's word that he sat by him on the mat for hours at a time until, quite worn out, he would fall asleep beside him. The king waited patiently for the wee chap to finish his nap, then began the lesson over again. In 1857, three years later, the king was baptized in the presence of all his people, and chose the name of "Ebenezer" instead of his heathen name, saying that the Lord alone should be his helper. His people had believed him to be a god, and worshipped him, but now he said before them all "I have been a bad man, and disturbed the country. The missionaries came, but I did not heed their warnings. God saved my life from my enemies, I now want to own Him as the only true God." The queen also was baptized by the name of Lydia. From this time King Ebenezer spent all his efforts for the good of his people, and was known as a devoted, earnest, consistent Christian. He sent a message of peace to a neighboring king, but received the answer back that this king would not be at peace until he "had killed and eaten the king of Ban." But Ebenezer did not get angry or want to fight in return for this insulting message, he felt that God had the power to deliver him from all his enemies, and showed a forgiving spirit in sparing the lives of those who came in his way, who would, before his conversion, have been eaten by his cannibal people. His last act as king was to cede Fiji to Queen Victoria in 1874. He sent his war-club to her as a present with this message to the Prime Minister:—*Your Excellency.*—Before finally ceding his country to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, the king desires, through your Excellency, to give Her Majesty the only thing he possesses that may interest her—his old and favorite war-club, until lately the only known law in Fiji. He thus lays by his old weapon and covers it with the emblems of peace. Whole tribes of his people died and passed away under the old law, but hundreds of thousands remain to learn and enjoy the better state of things. With this emblem of the past the king sends his love to Her Majesty saying that he fully confides in her and in her children who, succeeding, shall become kings of Fiji, to exercise a watchful control over the welfare of his children and people."

The Queen graciously received the magnificent club, and has since placed it in the British Museum where some of you may see it when you visit England. In 1883, king Ebenezer was taken ill, and only a day or two before his death he spoke often of Jesus, and called his family around his bed to pray with them once more. His last words were, "Hold me, Jesus! my faith in Thee is firm!"

If any of you want to hear more about the wonderful work done on this island, read a book called "James Calvert, or From Dark to Dawn in Fiji."

I have been reading it this week and thought you would like me to tell you this story of king Ebenezer.