

THE WESLEYAN.

"HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS."

Scripture.

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POETRY.

STANZAS ON THE TOTAL ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

BY JAMES MONTGOMERY, Esq.

[Sung in celebration of the Abolition of Negro Apprenticeship throughout the West India Colonies, on Wednesday, the 1st of August, at the York Choral Society's Concert, performed in the Festival Concert room, that evening.]

HUR to the mountain afar
All in the cool of the even,
Led by yon beautiful star!
First of the daughters of Heaven;
Sweet to the slave is the season of rest,
Something far sweeter he looks for to night,
His heart lies awake in the depth of his breast,
And listens till God shall say, "Let there be light!"

Climb we the mountain, and stand
High in mid-air to inhale—
Fresh from our old father-land—
Balm in the ocean-born gale,
Darkness yet covers the face of the deep,
Spirit of freedom! go forth in thy might,
To break up our bondage like infancy's sleep,
The moment when God shall say, "Let there be light!"

Gaze we meanwhile from this peak,
Praying in thought while we gaze;
Watch for the dawning's first streak,
Prayer then be turn'd into praise!
Shout to the valleys, "Behold ye the morn"
Long, long desired, but denied to our sight!
Lo, myriads of Slaves into men are new-born,
The word was omnipotent, "Let there be light!"

Hear it, and hail it the call:
Island! island prolong,
Liberty! liberty! all
Join in that Jubilee Song.
Hark! 'tis the children's Hosannas that ring!
Hark! they are Freeman! whose voices unite;
While England, the Indies, and Africa sing
Amen! Hallelujah! to "Let there be light!"

HISTORICAL.

NEW ZEALAND.

[THE following account is extracted from the Penny Magazine, and may be useful to individuals, whose attention has been lately drawn to passing events connected with that country.]

At some future period in their history, the natives of New Zealand may turn with as much interest to the early records of the discovery of their country by a civilized people, as we feel in reading the account given by Cæsar of our progenitors, the antient Britons. It is from such a point that history commences to trace the progress of a people or tribe, for their origin and previous condition are usually surrounded by a dimness and obscurity which it is hopeless to penetrate.

New Zealand, though filling a large space in the Southern Pacific Ocean, extending from 34° to 47° S. lat., and from 167° to 179° E. long., was not discovered by the early navigators of the latter part of the fifteenth and commencement of the sixteenth centuries,

whose attention was too strongly directed to the riches of India and of the new world, and in their passage to and from these quarters, New Zealand did not lay in their track. It is supposed however that Juan Fernandez reached New Zealand on a voyage from the west coast of South America in 1576; but this conjecture does not appear to be very well sustained; and it was not until 1642 that the discovery can be said to have really been made, and Abel Jansen Tasman, a Dutch navigator, is really entitled to the honour. The vast Southern Pacific was then an almost unexplored region, and though nearly two centuries had elapsed since European navigators discovered the passage to India by the Cape of Good Hope, the mine of enterprise which was then opened still continued to attract their chief attention and to satisfy their maritime ardour. The reputed existence of a fifth continent placed in the southern hemisphere, and vague rumours of its supposed rich productions, inflamed the imagination of geographers, and proved a wholesome stimulus to the progress of discovery. Tasman was despatched by Anthony Van Diemen, governor of the Dutch East Indies, and sailed on the 14th of August, 1642, from the port of Batavia, in company with another vessel under his command. He first discovered the island now known as Van Diemen's Land; and pursuing his voyage towards the east, again saw land on the 13th of September, and following the line of coast anchored next day within a large bay, where for the first time he had an opportunity of seeing the natives, who came out in two canoes and hailed the strangers in a strong rough voice, but they did not approach very near to the ship. On the following day, a canoe with thirteen men came within a stone's throw, but no temptations could induce them to come on board the ship. Tasman describes them as of the common stature and strong boned; their complexion between brown and yellow, and their black hair tied up in the Javanese fashion on the crown of the head, with the addition of a large feather stuck therein. Seven other canoes in the meantime put off from the shore, and Tasman, doubtful of their intentions, hoisted out one of his boats, which being manned by a quarter-master and six seamen, was on its way to the other ship, to put her commander on his guard, when the canoes ran violently in upon the boat and nearly upset it, at the same time making a desperate attack upon the boat's crew. Three of the seamen were killed and one mortally wounded. The canoes then hastily retreated, the savages carrying with them one of the dead bodies. Tasman immediately weighed anchor, and gave the place the name of the Bay of Murderers. Thus inauspiciously did the first interview of the New Zealanders with Europeans terminate. Tasman had