

and Shelburne, Mr. McNab to preach in the former place and Mr. McMillan in the latter.

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Religious Intelligence.

A Council in the Sandwich Islands.

Councils [are] no new things in the islands of the sea. The savage chiefs were accustomed to meet to lay their plans for the cruel and desolating wars in which they were almost constantly engaged. There was little order or method in those rude assemblies. Parliamentary rules were unknown. Brute force was all that was recognized, and the will of the stronger prevailed. Blood and carnage and conquest and spoils were the result of those gatherings, inspired by revenge and deadly hate.

A change has been effected in many of those "dark places of the earth," that were "full of the habitations of cruelty." The spirit of peace and good-will to men now animates those who formerly were "breathing out threatenings and slaughter." Councils are now held, not for devising plans of bloodshed and extermination, but for promoting the highest interests not only of their countrymen, but for the people of distant islands.

We have been impressed with the change which Christian civilization can effect upon rude barbarians, by reading in the July "Friend," published at the Sandwich Islands, the record of the eight annual meeting of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association. Coming at a time when the religious papers of our own country are filled with reports of the proceedings of our great denominational organizations, they bear the impress of the same Christian spirit, wisdom, and zeal, and reveal progress that awakens amazement blended with devout thanksgiving.

The Association held its sessions for two weeks in Honolulu, sixty-eight members and delegates being present from about fifty native churches. The general religious work carried forward on the Islands, including Home and Foreign Missions, educational enterprises and the circulation of Bibles and religious books, comes under the supervision of the Association. During the eight years of its history the churches, whose members were so lately sunk in heathenism and abject poverty, have contributed to its treasury for the spread of the gospel on their own islands, and at the foreign mission stations they have equipped, over \$56,000. So lately

rescued from barbarism themselves, they have shown the true spirit of Christian love that has redeemed them, by carrying the gospel to others. They now have their own Board of Foreign Missions which sustains four foreign missions, occupying eighteen stations, on the Gilbert Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Caroline Islands, and the Marquesas. Their report refers with especial interest to the publication, by the American Tract Society, of their Hymn book and Bible Dictionary in the Hawaiian language, and speaks of a Text-book and Bible Commentary prepared for publication.

The statistical table of the state of the churches contains many impressive and suggestive facts. A total of 59 churches is included, to which 68,278 members have been admitted, and which now number 15,108 members in good and regular standing. Connected with these churches are 53 pastors, among whom we recognize only the names of Rev. Messrs. Titus Coan, E. Bond, and H. H. Parker; all the rest are evidently Hawaiians, their churches being now ministered to by natives. Between sixty and seventy natives have been ordained as ministers and foreign missionaries, and are now laboring with zeal and ability in the great work of saving souls. The records of the church at Hilo, under the care of the venerable and apostolic Dr. Coan, who has just returned to the Island after a visit to his home, show that it has had a membership of 12,713, making it the largest Christian church in the world. The churches in the association contributed, last year to various religious objects the sum of \$29,881, being on average of \$1 93 to each church member.

These, and many other facts that might be drawn from these records, are a living and eloquent testimony to the power of the simple gospel in elevating a savage race from its degradation, till it now occupies a respected place in the brotherhood of nations, and has become a centre of benign and saving influences to the benighted islands scattered over the board Pacific.

Free Church.

The principal missions of the Free Church are in India and Africa, with 77 central and branch stations, 25 ordained European missionaries, 9 ordained native missionaries, and about 150 other laborers as catechists, teachers, Bible-readers, and the like. The number of their churches is not given, but they report about 2000 communicants. They occupy some of the principal cities of India, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Puna, Nagpore, and Nellore, and central portions of Kaffaria, in South Africa. The income of the society the