

ers the previous year. The mission vessel had brought back the young men taken away the previous year. Their coming gave a great joy and increased the desire for teachers. Those on board were accordingly stationed here, seemingly under most favorable circumstances." "When we took the teachers on shore," wrote the missionaries "the joy of the people seemed to know no bounds. Men, women and children crowded around us. Some of the principal chiefs laid hold of our hands, and led us through the village, while the crowd manifested their joy in a way most unmistakable. *We never saw teachers on their first landing meet with such an enthusiastic reception. The field is certainly a most encouraging one.*"

Never did fair appearances prove more woefully deceptive. *Nineteen days after the whole party, consisting of the two teachers and their wives and a little boy, were murdered and devoured by the very people who had received them with such demonstrations of joy.* This was followed by an epidemic which cut off about 150 on that island, and spreading to the main land, cut off many there. Two of the teachers at Erakor died, and when the mission vessel visited the island in October 1854, there only remained one teacher and the widow of another to tell the tale. These it was found necessary to remove, and Snalo would remain no longer. Thus the mission work on the island was suspended.—We have given the above extracts to show the dangers and difficulties attending the first establishment of missions among savage tribes, and as illustrating the heroism and devotedness of the native teachers. An account of the resumption and progress of the mission we must reserve for another article.

NOTE.—In our last "Fonga" and "Fongans" was misprinted throughout for "Tonga" and "Tongans", and "Dr. Tamer" for "Dr. Turner."

RELIGIOUS DESOLATIONS.

At the Islington clerical meeting, held a few weeks ago, where about 250 clergymen of the Evangelical portion of the English Church met for the discussion of subjects of religious importance, the question, "Is the Church of England duly fulfilling her office as a missionary church?" was discussed at length by the Rev. Daniel Wilson, Rev. Daniel Hoare, Rev. Henry Venn, and others. The subject in general was presented by the first named gentleman, who was chairman of the meeting, after which the home and foreign missionary work of

the English Church was separately presented. It appears from this discussion, that little more than a million of dollars per annum is contributed to the funds of the four great church missionary societies, and the total number of communicants is 24,000; but during the last ten years the area of missionary labor has been largely increased, the principle of self-support has been introduced into the missions, a native ministry has been established, and there has been a decided movement in the public mind of heathenism towards Christianity. The native churches in one missionary district in India raise \$35,000 a year for religious and benevolent purposes, and other stations present equally encouraging reports respecting their liberality. The work abroad has far outrun the liberality and devotion of the Church at home; and a loud call is made upon the Church to furnish the means, and especially the men, which the condition of the heathen world demands. The state of the Church of England, as respects home missionary work, is truly deplorable. It is a sad fact which was stated by Rev. C. D. Marston, that there are more people habitually absent from public worship in England now, than existed in it at the time of the Reformation. A state of religious destitution prevails in the outskirts of large towns, and in some large country districts, which surpasses belief. In one district of forty-two persons there was only one communicant, and only two regular church-goers; in another district, only two out of seventy-five; and in another, with 64 persons above 15 years of age, only 7 communicants. This last was a country town highly favored with Christian labor and prayerful effort. An earnest appeal in view of these facts was made for self-denying lay-preachers for home evangelization, and for contributions and consecration to the foreign work.

CONTENTMENT. — One who had experienced a change of fortune said:—"When I was rich, I possessed God in all things; and now I am poor, I possess all things in God." Contentment depends more on the disposition of the mind than on the circumstances of our life."

Some professors pass for very meek, good-natured people till you displease them. They resemble a pool or a pond; while you let it alone it looks clear and limpid; but if you stir it toward the bottom the rising sediments soon discover the impurities that lurk beneath.—*Toplady.*