

THE MISSION FIELD.

NEW ZEALAND.

The Missioners from England, the Rev. Messrs. Bodington and Mason, will probably reach New Zealand in the end of February.

The following letter was received by the Bishop of Auckland from his delegates to the Hauhaus:—"At Karakariki, on the occasion of the death of the Rev. William Barton, there were 200 persons present. The chiefs first referred to the good work of the man whose body was then lying before them, and then turned to welcome Tawhiao. Two spoke thus:—"Friend Tawhiao, return to the true faith in the presence of your people; for your father Potatau's dying words were, "Remain behind, O people, and live in peace." Let your words be like his. Listen! If you go a different way neither we nor the people will follow you; but if you go in the way now set before you, that is, the way of godliness, we and all the people will go with you." Tawhiao then stood up and said: "O people living in the Waikato, hearken to my words. When I went to England across the vast ocean, I felt that the Queen was the upholder of truth and righteousness. In crossing the sea I experienced fine weather, both going and returning; the Almighty preserved us, and His great love brought us back in safety. I have signed my name to the blue-ribbon pledge, and I want all the tribes everywhere to accept those good things." When Tawhiao finished speaking the people clapped their hands so vigorously that our ears were made deaf. His own thirty also joined in the applause. In the evening the king attended our service, as did also the chief priest of the Hauhaus on the following morning. Tawhiao did look so noble when he spoke; he seemed to conceal nothing, but spoke in all sincerity. Next morning, just before leaving for his home, he came to us with this word: "Farewell, my sons; my word is, Return again to your tribe, Waikato is yours from mouth to source. Do not be diffident to order food at any place if you are hungry. But it must be you two only; do not let strangers come yet." This is what he said, and the chiefs at Whaitohia also told us the same. May the Church rejoice with us, and pray for the Maori king and his people that God would open their hearts to the truth and cause them to return to the Church of Christ.'

Archdeacon Clarke also visited these people, and writes:—"The renouncing of their false religion and return to Christianity is a foregone conclusion. As to their mode of worship, it is a most miserable farce. The *tariao*, or priest, began with an address exhorting to peace and quietness, the return of Tawhiao from England, was the fulfilment of the Messianic prophecies. There was then a prayer for protection during the day or night, which was wound up by repeating portions of the multiplication table in English in a monotone, and a sort of ascription, in which the words "honour" and "glory" were frequently repeated, closing with the word "vire" in diminuendo.

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