

gods and the audacity of their destroyers ; and when the great god Oro was carried to Pomare's feet, he set it up as a post in his kitchen, fixing pegs upon it on which to hang baskets for food, and subsequently burned it as fuel. Such was the end of the great war god.

Mr. Nott and Mr. Hayward soon went to Tahiti, and made a tour of the island. They found the people busy in destroying Maræ and building little chapels. Pomare himself had written a prayer, which he often read in these places of worship—a prayer worthy of any Christian author.

The missionaries found the people very anxious to learn to read, and the king had not only destroyed his public idols, but now wished to part with the family gods, always kept in his house. He sent about twelve of these frightful little images to the missionaries in Eimeo, with a letter asking that they might be sent to the Missionary Society in England, that they might know the likeness of the gods that had been worshipped in the island. The idols were accordingly nailed up in a wooden case and sent to the directors of the London Missionary Society. Family prayer became common, and the people retired to the bushes for private supplication. The missionaries could scarcely get any rest, so continually were they besieged with inquiry. In every place they found chapels—sixty-six in all—in which the people assembled four times a week.

About this time a printing-press was brought to Eimeo, and from a neighboring Maræ, polished stones—pieces of pavement upon which worshippers had knelt before the altars—were dug up and placed where God's Word was to be printed. Satan was robbed that God might be honored. The first book printed was the *Baba*, or spelling-book, and Pomare was permitted to aid in setting up the first page, and to strike off the first impression. The Tahitians were very anxious to have these printed books, and sent to the missionaries plantain leaves rolled up, with the request for spelling-books written on the leaves. This was the beginning of the spreading of the knowledge of God from isle to isle by the power of a sanctified literature. Catechisms followed, and little books containing collections of texts ; schools were multiplied, converts increased, and there was a general spirit of inquiry.

For years Mr. Nott had been translating the Gospel of Luke into Tahitian, assisted by Pomare, and while the book was in press the natives often constrained Mr. Ellis to stop printing to explain to them what they read. The missionaries wished to bind the books before they were distributed, but the impatience of the people compelled them to give up waiting for proper binding materials. The natives, however, did not suffer these precious books to remain without proper protection ; dogs and cats and goats were killed that their skins might be prepared for covers, and the greatest anxiety was manifested to obtain these new copies of the Gospel. Five men from Tahiti landed at Afareaita, and did not go into any house to lodge lest some one might anticipate them in the morning and buy up all the books, so that they should be compelled to return with-