

**MEMOIR OF MRS. JANE
TUCKER, WIFE OF THE
REV. CHARLES TUCKER**

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Memoir of Mrs. Jane Tucker, Wife of the Rev. Charles Tucker by Mrs. G. F. White

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MRS. G. F. WHITE

**MEMOIR OF MRS. JANE
TUCKER, WIFE OF THE
REV. CHARLES TUCKER**

Memoir of
MRS. JANE TUCKER,

WIFE OF THE

REV. CHARLES TUCKER,

Sometimes Missionary to Khabai and Sanga.

BY

MRS. G. F. WHITE.

EDITED BY THE

REV. H. W. WILLIAMS, D.D.

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PREFACE BY THE EDITOR.



THE following Memoir will be found, if I mistake not, to be, in several respects, one of great interest and of sterling value. It presents a beautiful example of youthful piety, and of entire consecration to the Lord Jesus maintained through a lengthened course of active service, and then of patient suffering, until it was crowned with a peaceful entrance into the Redeemer's presence.

My own acquaintance with Mrs. Tucker, when she was engaged in her first labours for Christ in the city of Bristol, was very slight; but I remember the esteem in which she was held as a thoughtful Christian and an earnest and devoted Class-leader. Young as she was, she was not unworthy to hold a place among the many eminently pious persons who, at that time, adorned the Bristol Societies, and whose labours were greatly owned of God.

But the chief interest of the narrative centres in the account of her Missionary life. Happily united in marriage to a devoted Wesleyan-Methodist Minister, who still survives to cherish the memory of her varied

excellencies, and to rejoice in the grace of Christ so richly vouchsafed to her, she accompanied him to the South Seas, and for ten years shared his joys and trials, while her efforts and her example contributed largely to promote the success of his labours.

It is difficult for those who are familiar with the present development of Methodism in Australasia and Polynesia, to realize the state of things which existed when Mr. and Mrs. Tucker went forth to labour among the heathen. The Australasian Connexion, now, by friendly arrangement, made independent of the British Conference, numbers more than three hundred and fifty Ministers, and more than fifty-two thousand Church-members. Such, too, has been the expansion of the work, both in Australia itself and in the South Sea Islands, that there are now four Annual Conferences, with one General Conference assembling once every three years. In the year 1832, when Mr. and Mrs. Tucker entered upon their Missionary career, there were only six Ministers in Australia, two in New Zealand, and six in the Friendly Islands. At the Conference of that year, only one hundred and eighty-four persons were reported as belonging to the Methodist Societies in Australia; while in New Zealand the number of members was only seven. Some who still survive have a vivid recollection of the difficulties connected with the early Mission to New Zealand,—of the destruction, at one period, of our Mission-premises at Wangaroa, and the shelter afforded to our brethren and

their families by the Missionaries of the Church Missionary Society, who occupied a station twenty miles distant,—and then of the abundant blessing of God which, at length, rested upon the patient toil of His servants, leading to the conversion of hundreds to the faith of Jesus. The Mission in the Friendly Islands had already begun greatly to prosper when Mr. and Mrs. Tucker went forth; and it was their joy to witness a rich outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and to train up thousands in the way of righteousness and life.

It is an interesting circumstance, that Mr. Tucker and the late Rev. David Cargill, M.A., were originally designed to commence the Mission to the Fiji Islands,—that Mission which has been so signally honoured and blessed by God. In the narrative which follows, a brief reference is made to the circumstances which led to a change in Mr. Tucker's sphere of labour. But as we think of his devoted wife going forth from her father's house, where she was surrounded with every comfort, and from the happy associations of Bristol Methodism, we must bear in mind that she anticipated going with her husband to an untried region, to live among cannibals, whose language they would have to acquire, and to be exposed to all the perils to which the outbursts of savage passion, instigated by the prince of darkness, might subject them. It was a beautiful illustration of the sincerity of her entire self-dedication to the Lord Jesus, that she deliberately accepted such a position, and esteemed it, indeed, her highest honour, thus to

risk life itself for HIM who had bought her with His blood. The true Missionary spirit glowed within her breast. That spirit had been awakened and sustained by the love of Christ; and it had been fostered by the influences which surrounded her in her father's house, and in the Church to which she belonged. The cause of Missions had taken a firm hold of the judgment and affections of the Methodists of Bristol; and it was their privilege, as the writer vividly remembers, to be often favoured, at their Anniversary Services, with the ministrations and addresses of the Rev. Richard Watson and the Rev. Dr. Newton, as well as of other honoured and powerful advocates of the claims of the heathen world. Some of these eminent men were the guests of Mrs. Tucker's parents; and her intercourse with them strengthened her principles, and deepened her interest in the Missionary enterprise. But it was her love to the Lord Jesus that made her willing to go forth, at all risks, even to 'cannibal Fiji,' that she might there diffuse the savour of His Name.]

The following Memoir has been prepared by a niece of Mrs. Tucker, the wife of the Rev. George F. White, now of Bristol. At her request, and that of my esteemed friend, the Rev. Charles Tucker, I have edited the volume, and have, with Mrs. White's consent, made a few additions to the narrative.

It may add to the interest of the work to mention, that Mrs. Tucker was the aunt of a distinguished

Minister who has recently been called from among us,—the Rev. Samuel Romilly Hall, who presided over the Liverpool Conference of 1868, and whose many sterling excellencies, and especially his strict and unswerving adherence to duty, and his uniform solicitude to maintain the high spiritual tone of Methodism, will long endear his memory to those who were associated with him in the activities of the Church.

H. W. WILLIAMS.

YONGE PARK, LONDON,
May 5th, 1877.