

**GEMS FROM THE CORAL
ISLANDS. WESTERN POLYNESIA:
COMPRISING THE NEW HEBRIDES
GROUP, THE LOYALTY GROUP,
NEW CALEDONIA GROUP**

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Gems from the Coral Islands. Western Polynesia: Comprising the New Hebrides Group, the Loyalty Group, New Caledonia Group by William Gill

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WILLIAM GILL

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GROUP, THE LOYALTY GROUP,
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NATIVES AND VOLCANO.—TANA.

Univ. of
California

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G E M S

FROM

THE CORAL ISLANDS:

Western Polynesia:

COMPRISING

THE NEW HEBRIDES GROUP.

THE LOYALTY GROUP.

NEW CALEDONIA GROUP.

BY THE

REV. WILLIAM GILL,

RAROTONGA.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE writer of the following pages left this country seventeen years ago, to proceed as a missionary, under the auspices of the London Missionary Society, to the islands of the South Sea. During this period he has been actively engaged in the Christian instruction, and the consequent civilization, of the barbarous tribes inhabiting those islands.

Many persons who have heard oral details respecting the advancing improvement going on amongst the islanders, and who are interested in the universal education and elevation of heathen nations, have urged that a narrative of facts, connected with Missionary work, on those islands, during the last sixteen years, should be put through the press; especially illustrating the labours of NATIVE TEACHERS.

Every island gained to Christianity and civilization, westward of the Tahitian group, has been gained through the labours of Native Missionaries; and many stations in the Hervey, Samoa, Penrhyn, New Hebrides, and New Caledonia groups, are now suitably occupied and efficiently worked by Native Teachers and Pastors.

The present volume contains an account of the introduction of Christianity into the islands of three of the largest

groups of Western Polynesia ; the formation of Native churches—the character of Native evangelists—the work they have to do—the manner in which they do it, and the results of their labours ; giving a complete Missionary history of each island in those groups to the present time.

Commending this work to the kind notice of his brethren in the ministry, to teachers in Sabbath Schools, and to all who desire the universal extinction of heathenism, he hopes that, in their various circles, they will aid the circulation of information thus given ; and that the results may be, an increased acquaintance with the progress of Missionary labour in those islands, a due appreciation of what the infant Native churches on those islands are doing, to extend the blessings of Christianity to the heathen lands beyond them, and an augmentation of the resources by which Missionary Societies, in this country, shall be able to continue and to extend their aggressions upon the world of heathen darkness, idolatry, and degradation.

It is intended, as soon as possible, to give, in a companion volume to the present, a Missionary history of the islands of Barotonga and Mangais, together with that of the other islands of that group : to contain also a summary of all the groups and islands now under Christian instruction in the South Seas, with an account of the geography, number, extent, and present state of the numerous islands yet to be visited by the Christian teacher.

CONTENTS.

New Hebrides Group.

	PAGE
ISLAND OF ANHITUM	149 to 188
ISLAND OF TANA	226 to 241
ISLAND OF EROMANGA	101 to 138
ISLAND OF FOTUNA	139 to 144
ISLAND OF FATE	55 to 95

Loyalty Group.

ISLAND OF MARE	1 to 47
ISLAND OF LIFU	185 to 199
ISLAND OF TOKA	200 to 202
ISLAND OF URA	203 to 206

New Caledonia Group.

ISLAND OF NEW CALEDONIA	209 to 217
ISLE OF PINES	218 to 224

ILLUSTRATIONS.



	PAGE
Natives of Tana, and Volcano	2
• Nasilini, Native of Mare	31
Natives of Faté	50
Rejected war weapons	52
Head and Dress of a Faté Chief	69
Captain Cook landing on Eromanga	98
Dillon's Bay, Eromanga	113
Eromanga Native expounding the Scriptures	135
An Eromangan Club	136
Map of the New Hebrides	146
A Native of Ansiteum	153
Map of Loyalty Group	184
View of New Caledonia	208
A Native of New Caledonia	217