

**FRIENDLY AND FEEJEE ISLANDS:
A MISSIONARY VISIT TO
VARIOUS STATIONS IN THE
SOUTH
SEAS, IN THE YEAR MDCCCXLVII**

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WALTER LAWRY & ELIJAH HOOLE

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TO
THOMAS FARMER, ESQ., OF LONDON,
JOHN IRVING, ESQ., OF BRISTOL,
AND TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WESLEYAN
MISSIONARY SHIP COMMITTEE,

TO WHOSE ATTENTIVE AND ABLE MANAGEMENT,
AND CHRISTIAN LIBERALITY,
IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE MISSIONS TO NEW-ZEALAND,
AND THE FRIENDLY AND FREEJEE ISLANDS,
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE CIVILIZED WORLD
ARE MUCH INDEBTED,

THIS VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

THE EDITOR.

PREFACE.

THE Rev. Walter Lawry is the General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Society's Missions in New-Zealand, and Visitor of the Missions in the Friendly Islands and Feejee Islands.

This Missionary, now truly venerable by age and services, proceeded to New South Wales in the year 1817, with the hope of communicating religious instruction to the settlers and convicts, and to the native inhabitants of that country. In 1820 he was appointed to commence a Mission in the Friendly Islands; he found an opportunity of proceeding to Tonga, or, as it is often called, Tonga-tabu, in June, 1822; and he remained on the island, exposed to many privations, and to dangers and anxieties innumerable, until November, 1823, when he returned to New South Wales.

After an absence of nearly twenty-five years, he has again had an opportunity of visiting the Friendly Islands, now no longer idolatrous and uncivilized, but converted to the faith of Christ; and the interest of the Journal, now first published separate and entire, is greatly heightened by the remarkable contrast he witnessed in the character and state of the people when compared with their savage and Pagan condition. It is almost superfluous to commend to the reader's attention Mr. Lawry's graphic descriptions of all he witnessed. He has had the advantage of old acquaintance with the scenes he visited; he writes under the liveliest emotions of grateful joy; and his naturally lucid style is rendered more effective by the warmth of the feelings by which he was animated.

If one portion of Mr. Lawry's Journal may claim a pre-eminence of interest, it is that which relates to the Feejee Islands. Of this large and populous group of islands, there was no accurate detailed information, until lately, except by means of Missionary publications. And what a picture of fallen human nature, and of bold and successful Missionary enterprise, is here presented to us! The Feejeean exhibits no deficiency of intellectual capacity, no deterioration of outward form; he inhabits some of the most lovely and fertile spots upon the globe, supplying the necessaries and luxuries of life in return for a very small amount of labour; and yet he is the most habitual and ferocious cannibal that has yet been discovered. For the Missionary to find him in this state, and to aim at his conversion and salvation, was simultaneous. The object was philanthropic; the experiment was most hazardous; the success has been complete. No undertaking could have appeared more hopeless than the conversion of these savages; and nothing can be more wonderful than the glorious

success which the Missionaries have witnessed. The doctrines of revelation alone enable us to fathom the depravity of the Heathen, to estimate the motives of those who seek their salvation, and to account for the powerful and divine results of their labours.

Great pains have been taken in this volume to present a complete view of the present state of this part of Polynesia. The map is the most perfect one which has yet been published, having been corrected by Captain Buck. He has added the results of his own observations to the valuable information furnished by Commodore Wilkes, who surveyed the islands for the Government of the United States of America.

The wood-cuts relate chiefly to the Feejee Islands, and are illustrative of the manners and appearance of those remote localities, of which they are a correct representation. A few views of the Friendly Islands, sent by the Rev. Charles Tucker, were received too late to be rendered available.

A history of the Missions in New-Zealand, and in the Friendly and Feejee Islands, would be a most welcome addition to our ecclesiastical records; as it would detail some of the most remarkable triumphs of Christianity over Paganism, and idolatry, and savage life, which have ever been witnessed since the days of the Apostles. Until this desirable task shall be accomplished, the journals, and letters, and separate narratives of the Missionaries will continue to be read as a valuable mine of information. We refer particularly to the Memoir of the Rev. William Cross, by the late Rev. John Hunt; the Memoir of Mrs. Cargill, by her husband; the Journals of the lamented Rev. John Waterhouse, as published in the Missionary Notices for May, 1841, and February and March, 1844; and the letters and journals of the Missionaries, as they have appeared in the Missionary Notices, for the last thirty years. It may be safely conjectured that an attentive perusal of Mr. Lawry's Journal will give an interest to the older documents now referred to, even surpassing that which they justly claimed on their first appearance.

Meantime it is hoped that the account of the Friendly Islands, and of the Feejee Islands, appended to this volume, embracing many particulars of History, Description, and Statistics, not comprised in the Journal of the Missionary Visit, will be found worthy of perusal and reference.

The very extraordinary change which has been effected by Christian teaching within the life of one generation in these distant islands of the sea, is just cause of thankfulness and joy; but it should be remembered, that it has been effected at the cost of much physical and mental suffering on the part of

the Missionaries and their families, who have been "separated from their brethren" for the accomplishment of this great work: many valuable lives have been sacrificed: many widows and orphans are left to the charity of the churches: the labourers now in the field are in circumstances which demand our kindest sympathy, and our most earnest prayers in their behalf.

The Missions themselves are not in any considerable degree self-supporting; they require costly supplies of food and clothing, and goods for barter, which have to be conveyed over half the world.

The Missionary ship was never more useful than at the present, and never more indispensable to the maintenance of the Missions.

The creation of a literature for a people entirely ignorant of letters, is, in itself, a work of great magnitude. The reduction of the languages to grammatical rule and order; the compilation of vocabularies; the translation of the holy Scriptures, and of works of religious and general information; the toils of printing and book-binding, and the right distribution of books as they issue from the press; are all in the hands of the Missionaries; and the cost of furnishing materials for the publications, and support for the labourers, is easy to be imagined.

The Missionary Committee undertake the arrangement and dispatch of the required supplies; but they depend on the Society at large, and on the Christian public, for the means by which the good work is to be sustained.

Many groups of "isles" in the South Pacific Ocean, still "wait for the law" of Jehovah: they will probably receive it from those islands which are already Christian; but, in order to this desirable result, the ground now won must be maintained, and the ranks of the Missionary army must be speedily and largely recruited.

It is hoped that the readers of this volume will permit themselves to be moved to a devout and practical sympathy with this important undertaking. Missionaries are "the messengers of the churches;" they are comparatively few in number, but they do the work assigned to the churches by their Lord and Master, and in the discharge of their representative duties they have a just claim on our prayers and kindest sympathies, and on our free and liberal support. They who come to behold Christ's glory in his kingdom "bring their silver and their gold with them."

WESLEYAN CENTENARY-HALL AND MISSION-HOUSE,
BISHOPSGATE-STREET-WITHIN, LONDON,
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It is worthy of remark, that the Missions to the Feejee and Friendly Islands were commenced without any political motive, and without any protection or patronage or help from the Government. In this respect they are similar to the Missions in New-Zealand, which, thirty years ago, were commenced by men whose sole desire was to reclaim the savage natives to the knowledge of God and the blessings of Christianity. The voluntary efforts of religious philanthropy have sustained these Missions from their beginning, and will no doubt continue to do so. Small spots of earth, and small communities of men, of whom governments cannot afford to take the cognizance and protection, are specially devolved on the care of the church of Christ. New-Zealand would have been converted without treaties or colonization; and however much the inhabitants may be ultimately benefited by the influx of Europeans, the Missionaries and their converts had no reference to any such results. So, also, the Friendly Islands and the Feejees receive the law of Jehovah without any prospect of improving their political condition or relations. Christ's "kingdom is not of this world," and his kingdom will come whether the world wills it or not; but our nation has already won its brightest honours from the labours of its Missionary sons, and is deriving from their results some of its most solid advantages.

Nevertheless, it cannot be too distinctly set forth, that the object of the Missions described in this volume, is the propagation of Christianity, the pure and peaceful religion of the holy Scriptures. The men who are appointed to the duty of conveying the Gospel to the Pagan islanders have been chosen for their employment in consequence of their personal knowledge of religion, and their ability to teach it. Their high and spiritual aim is, at the first, not at all understood by the dark and debased tribes of men whom they seek to convert. But the savages soon discover the purity and truth of the Missionary character; and listen with attention and respect to their instructions. It does not surprise the Missionaries when they witness very striking effects produced by their teaching on the minds of their disciples. In every country, and in society the most enlightened and civilized, fallen man is not saved from the guilt and dominion of sin without "sorrow after a godly sort," and the exercise of penitential prayer, and faith, "repentance

toward God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ:" and every Christian has known the transition, more or less sudden, from the "darkness" of spiritual ignorance and guilt, to the "light" of divine knowledge and peace, "and from the power of Satan unto God." The same process is experienced by the South-Sea islander, when the word of God comes to him "in power and in the Holy Ghost;" and in the following narrative many such are allowed to describe the feelings of their hearts, and their progress and advancement in the knowledge of divine truth. We may learn from these examples, that "the same Lord over all is rich unto all them that call upon Him."

The Missionaries take with them the manners and arts of civilized life, and become the patterns of their flocks, whose desire it is to copy their example. Thus the Gospel is the pioneer of civilization; the untutored children of nature become acquainted with the decencies and amenities of Christian society; the fear of God becomes the beginning of wisdom; the rudiments of education are received with gratitude; books are compiled and translated; the printing-press multiplies copies of them; information is diffused; the advantages of commerce are appreciated; and whole communities, which a short time ago were savage in their nature, and barbarous and repulsive in their manners, now greet with welcome the intercourse of men of intelligence, and vie with their European visitors in Christian courtesy and politeness.

In every respect, Missions are charities of the highest kind. Fallen and sinful men are converted from the error of their ways; barbarous tribes, which had ceased almost to be regarded as human, are restored to a place of honour in the family of man; philanthropic exertion has the high reward of complete success; the merciful purposes of our Saviour Christ are accomplished; and God is glorified. Who will not exclaim, "Let Christian Missions be perpetuated, and let them be extended throughout the widest continents, and to the remotest islands of the sea?"

THIS Second Edition of FIVE THOUSAND COPIES has been prepared at the suggestion of a munificent friend of Missions, who is desirous that the information contained in the Volume may be diffused as widely as possible.

WESLEYAN MISSION-HOUSE,
BISHOPSGATE-STREET-WITHIN, LONDON,
March 11th, 1850.