

children asleep in all directions, like the beasts of the field."

From Matauri they went to the Bay of Islands, near to the entrance of which Ruatara lived. He had done everything in his power to do honour to the occasion, and did his utmost to return the kindness he had received from Mr. Marsden when in Sydney.

Mr. Marsden further remarks: "On Sunday morning, when I was on deck, I saw the English flag flying, which was a pleasing sight in New Zealand. I considered that it was the signal and dawn of civilisation, liberty and religion, in that dark and benighted land. I never viewed the British colours with more gratification, and I flattered myself that they would never be removed till the natives of the islands enjoyed the happiness of British subjects."

Ruatara erected a pulpit made out of an old canoe in the centre of an enclosed space, and covered it with a cloth given him in Sydney. He formed seats for the Europeans in a similar way. Then, having made all his arrangements, he and his two companions, dressed in regimentals given them by the Governor, with swords by their sides and switches in their hands, marshalled their people on either side of Mr. Marsden, who there on Christmas Day, 1814, preached to the assembled natives, taking as his text, "Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy."

Mr. Marsden stayed till the end of February, to see the Mission people properly settled, and then returned to Sydney. On the 26th of July, 1819, Mr. Marsden again returned to New Zealand. He took with him several fresh hands to strengthen the work there. He located them all at the Kerikeri. After settling the mission to the best of his power, he returned to Sydney. At the request of the Governor, he returned again to New Zealand in H.M.S. "Coromandel," February 20th, 1820. He landed at Coromandel, and, under the guidance of a chief, Tamorangi, he took what was then a most wonderful journey overland to the Bay of Islands. In several parts they were in open war, and the chief afterwards often ex-

pressed his astonishment that he had ever dared to undertake such a journey.

When Mr. Marsden reached the Kerikeri, his clothes were in rags, covered with mud and red ochre, from his near contact with the natives, who were then constantly smeared with it and shark oil; and with an old dirty night-cap on his head, he made his appearance before the astonished missionaries. He arrived at a most seasonable time, for they were on the point of breaking up the Mission, and leaving in the "Dromedary," which was then in the Bay. Discouraged by the opposition of the natives, and the horrid scenes they witnessed, they despaired of success. Mr. Marsden's presence revived the courage of the missionaries, and they decided to remain.

In 1823 he left Sydney on his fourth visit to New Zealand. He found the mission prospering, schools established, his opinion of the importance of which is seen in his report: "The true foundation must be laid in the education of the rising generation." It was during this visit that the Paihia station was formed, and the brothers H. and W. Williams located there.

In 1826, the news reached Mr. Marsden that the Mission was again on the point of being given up. He lost no time in visiting New Zealand, and soon succeeded in restoring confidence in the missionaries.

It was in February, 1830, that he paid his sixth visit, and was much gratified at the flourishing state of the schools. The natives were quite enthusiastic in their reception of him. He was welcomed with songs and dancing, and firing of guns. On one occasion more than two thousand armed men were present. He was surrounded by hundreds as he went from place to place.

Marsden's seventh, and last, visit was made in February, 1837. He was then in his seventy-second year. He had the satisfaction of seeing the Mission in a flourishing condition. Many new stations had been lately opened, and the natives were becoming converts by thousands, and rapidly giving up their intertribal wars, cannibalism, and other savage customs.