

with the juice of the sugar cane. They but seldom kill a pig—living mostly on fruits and vegetables."

Adams had naturally been somewhat disturbed by this visit; but the English commanders, after assuring him that he had nothing now to fear, again set sail for their native country, to clear up the story of the *Bounty*.

Eleven years passed away ere another ship approached Pitcairn. In 1825, however, some officers of an English man-of-war landed on its shore. They found peace and love still pervading that miniature world. On retiring to rest, the evening hymn, chanted by the islanders, lulled them into slumber, and they were awakened at dawn by holy songs of praise.

It was not until 1829, forty years after the mutiny of the *Bounty*, that John Adams, full of years and of virtue, passed to his rest and reward. The active goodness of his later life had cast into shade the vices which had stained his prime. Before his departure, however, a successor had been prepared, to continue and crown the work so auspiciously begun.

VII. PROVIDENCE.

About the year 1813 there was a young midshipman in the British navy, named George H. Nobbs. He experienced in that capacity a good deal of the roving life of a sailor, and in after years mingled in scenes of political turmoil, serving for a time in the revolutionary war of South America. Finally, shocked and disgusted with the horrors and cruelties of civil strife, he secured a passage to England in a ship that had touched at Pitcairn. The picture which (in conversations occurring in the interval before sailing) which the captain drew of the peaceful and happy life of the islanders in contrast to the discord and carnage from which Nobbs had withdrawn, touched and fascinated him. He abandoned his design of returning to his native country; he would visit this isle of the blest.

But how to get to this remote spot was the question. He might wait years for any vessel that designed to call. At last he procured a frail barque of eighteen tons burthen, and a companion with whom to venture upon the voyage. Navigated by these two persons alone, the vessel safely reached its destination. Adams received them with hospitable kindness, and after the death of that patriarch, Mr. Nobbs took his place as preceptor to the children of Pitcairn. He became a

real blessing to the community. His pureness of life, his abundant and untiring labors, exerted a legitimate influence over the people, and tended to conserve the good work of his predecessor.

At the request of the islanders themselves, and by the advice of many of the friends of the colony abroad—for its history had now become known—Mr. Nobbs resolved to visit England, with the view of being regularly ordained to the office of a Christian pastor. His people accompanied him to the shore, and with tears and embraces, bade him farewell. It will be in the recollection of our readers, that this visit, in 1852, excited much interest. He was duly ordained in London in that year, and before his return to Pitcairn, had the honor of an introduction to Queen Victoria, who was very greatly pleased with the account of his adopted home.

Every inquiry into the condition of the people of that little island, confirms the impression of their purity and happiness, and naturally suggests questions as to the causes of its stability. Those causes are evidently both positive and negative—understanding by the latter, the removal of such positive influences for evil as would tend to disturb the balance of forces on which the social and moral harmonies depend.

Captain Worth, who visited Pitcairn in 1848, thus describes their mental and moral condition:

"I never was so gratified as by my visit, and would rather have gone there than to any part of the world. They are the most interesting, contented, and happy people that can be conceived. The comfort, peace, strict morality, industry, and excessive cleanliness and neatness apparent about them, were really such as I was not prepared to witness; their learning and attainments in general education and information are astonishing; the men and women are a fine race, and their manners of a really superior order—ever smiling and joyous; but one mind and one wish seems to actuate them all. Crime appears to be unknown; and if there is really true happiness on earth, it is surely theirs. The island is romantic and beautiful; the soil of the richest description, yielding almost every fruit and vegetable. In short, it is a little paradise."

Even the rudest sailors who have been sometimes allowed to land, have been awed by the dignity of virtue in these simple inhabitants. One seaman to whom a gentleman

had spoken in praise of the exemplary conduct of his companions while on the island, answered: "Sir, I expect if one of our fellows was to misbehave himself here, we should not leave him alive."

Mr. Nobbs seems to understand perfectly the secret of this happy state of things. He doesn't trouble himself, indeed, like some of our verbalizing philosophers, about the composition of causes, or metaphysical distinctions between cause and occasion, or antecedent and condition, etc., but he goes nevertheless to the heart of the fact. A gentleman had asked Mr. Nobbs to account for such an absence of evil amongst the inhabitants of Pitcairn, in harmony with the current doctrine of human depravity.

"Because," he replied, "the children have no bad example before their eyes; the seed of evil is no doubt in them, as in all other human beings, but there is no encouragement from without to bring it to the surface. The Bible is their daily and hourly rule of life. If a dispute arise, for example, they act on the injunction, 'Let not the sun go down upon your wrath.' Again, the young people know they can marry when they are old enough, so one temptation to sin is removed. There are no differences of religious opinion amongst them. A bad word or an indecent jest are unknown upon the island—nor are intoxicating liquors ever seen."

In this respect, they are far wiser than (what are called) civilized countries. They allow the past to teach them. They do not depend merely upon education, or upon Christian principle, or upon self-government, etc.; they avoid that which tends to corrupt all these. In such dread and abhorrence are strong drinks held at Pitcairn, that one of the first enactments of their little code of laws guards against their admission. Thus it runs:

"No person or persons shall be allowed to get spirits of any sort from any vessel. No intoxicating liquor whatever shall be allowed to be taken on shore, unless for medicinal purposes."

A Maine law is the protection of Pitcairn; the flaming sword that guards the gates of this Paradise of the Pacific.

For I the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance; nevertheless, he that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven.—*Doc. and Cov.*