

Essay written in summer  
session of 1848

No 31.

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There is nothing more interesting and  
pleasing to us who <sup>have</sup> come with many  
from the world in order to engage in the  
service of our Redeemer than to hear  
from those of our brethren who are in  
different parts of the world also stru-  
ving to strengthen the Kingdom of Christ.

Among the many whom we have sufficiently  
reason to think & believe true soldiers of  
the cross is one namely — Mr Wm. Richards,  
who has by his firmness & zeal <sup>thus</sup> given us  
to know that he cares not for the perse-  
cutions of man, but is willing to spend and  
be spent in the service of his Lord.

Mr Richards was ordained as a Missionary  
to the heathen in A.D. 1820 — and during  
the same year he started there, His station  
was to be at Bahama a part of the  
Sandwich Islands, at which place he has  
been ever since he left America.

"Now to commence with some circumstances which  
took place in their journey and also, how they have  
been living, what they have been doing, and  
how peculiarly they have been favoured of God."  
Mr & Mrs Richards when they came with-  
in sight of Bahama, knowing the great dis-

since between them and their dear friends, in this Country, had feelings miserable beyond description, but when they would collect their thoughts and consider that they were about to engage in the service of their God, that if no other friend would be found that he would never forsake them these would tend to comfort their souls. For some time after their arrival they had many hard troubles and trials to undergo, indeed for a considerable time they were necessitated to keep their house guarded in order that those men to whom they were sent, and whose welfare they desired from the bottom of their souls, might not be their murderers. But this inhuman feeling soon abated in a very great degree, for not long after these devoted souls, had the happiness to be convinced that "He who is always present even unto the end of the earth" ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> pleased with their endeavours to <sup>do</sup> his will, which was made manifest by the earnestness of these heathen to erect a building in which they might worship the one true God. It is not one family perhaps on the whole Island engaged with any degree of regularity in religious concerns - but happy thoughts & cheering to the souls of those who are

friends to the Kingdom of Christ in the  
course of 9 or 10 months he writes, that he  
never could take a walk in the evening  
after having fulfilled the wearisome lab-  
ours of the day, without leaving petitions  
offered to the God of Mercy & truth. Then  
although they had many hardships, it was  
upon the whole very pleasant and sweet  
to them. He sometimes appears to the Amer-  
icans and says that he could wish them  
to see how these poor heathen embrace the  
truth, how eager they are to learn about Jesus  
his commands, his promises &c. & opening them  
that it would gladden their souls, and at  
the same time urge them on who enjoy such  
distinguished privileges to fulfil their duty  
in a more adequate manner. Mr Rich-  
ards sometimes seems so completely wrapped  
up in thought, that he seems at a loss for  
words to express the idea he wishes. I mean  
at such times when he is thinking concerning  
the awful darkness which still covers these  
Islands, sees the many difficulties which  
must be undergone in order to bring them  
to the living God. In a short time Mr  
R<sup>ich</sup> also was the means of establishing  
several schools, which proved of great im-  
portance. In Mr Richards's second  
year Tahaina through his instrumentality

became favoured with a special effusion  
of the Holy spirit. He gives us an account  
of a man under conviction - the substance  
of which is the following - after the  
doors were shut up for the night, there was  
a violent rapping at the gate, at which he  
called out what was wanted? The answer  
was - I want you should direct me to  
the right way - He seemed like a man  
zealously engaged in the pursuit of some  
object. He several times repeated the  
inquiry "Am shall I proceed?" and followed  
his question with earnest entreaties that I  
would direct him - You said to you are  
the light I am the darkness, you must en-  
lighten me. I endeavoured to ascertain  
as well as I could what particular  
subject occupied his mind. I found an  
inquiry that he was most fully convinced  
of the folly of his system of religion. He  
seemed also convinced of the truth of Chris-  
tianity, but still had no very definite views  
of the subject. He is indeed like a man  
wandering in a thick forest in the night.  
He knows that behind him is nothing but  
perpetual darkness and death. He is con-  
vinced that there is a place of light  
although he never saw it and knows not

what it is. He has been feeling for the path which leads to it, till he is perfectly bewildered, and then inquires with great earnestness "Yea shall I proceed" Mr. Richards gave him such advice & instruction concerning the road as he was able and then recommended to him the heavenly guide who I trust, is about to bring him from the wilderness and will finally conduct him to the Land of promise.

The Church which we have mentioned was at all times well filled with learners and some times could not contain all who came, which was soothing to the heart of Mr. Richards, who pointed them to that house not made with hands eternal in the heavens. In the course of about 3 or 4 years after Mr. Richards' arrival he could behold abundant fruits of his labours, he had through his undaunted exertions, increased the number of scholars in the schools through <sup>the islands</sup> out to about 900. The natives often say "blessed is Lahaina" and we would respond "blessed is the Lord for what Lahaina is". Yes the great business of this of a

Missionary at this time at Lohaina  
compared with what it formerly was was  
a most delightful one. It was the bu-  
siness of pointing souls to heaven, and con-  
ducting pilgrims to the land of promise.  
We observe with our present employment  
and prospects, we are encouraged we are  
animated. Here we see verified the  
promise of God that he will be found  
of all who seek him with honest and  
upright hearts, for what else than the  
love of God shed abroad in the soul, and  
a strong faith in him and dependence  
upon <sup>him</sup> could have upheld this blessed man?

If a reward of all the treasures ~~off~~ in this  
world would have been given him pro-  
vided he would suffer the same hardships  
he did, there would not have been any  
comparative degree of the sweetness  
which he anticipated, in receiving a crown  
of glory in heaven. This way of living  
is the only way in which a well founded  
joy & happiness is experienced. I say when  
we know that God is our friend, that  
he will grant us his heavenly protection  
at all times and eventually take us with  
him into his mansions of rest above.

It perhaps may not be improper to say a  
very few words concerning Mrs. Richard.

at one time when some fell with  
her husband and were prepared to destroy  
his earthly tabernacle, she pleaded for  
him in the following affectionate manner  
"My husband and my God are the sources  
of my consolation and wants and if  
they determined to take the life of their  
her husband, she also rather than live  
would share the same fate - it is needless  
to observe that these few words had their  
desired effect, for immediately she had  
finished uttering them, the blood thirsty  
wretch walked away and returned to them  
no more. — Their whole lives while  
with these people was one of toil, danger  
and pain, but yet <sup>the</sup> happiness they experi-  
enced in seeing so many straying to see the  
straight and narrow path, far outweigh-  
ed, all their sorrows. Finally - go says  
our blessed Redeemer into all the world and  
preach the gospel to every living creature"  
"He does not say go if we find encourage-  
ment to proceed, but go: - and we are  
bound to trust implicitly that in his own  
good, <sup>time</sup> as blessed Mr Richards labours he  
will bless ours. He works by means.  
We must sow if we would reap. And now  
think of what joy of soul it would produce  
if we ever were conscious of having been



instrumental in the hands of God, of ever  
bringing one soul to see the ~~the~~ error of his  
ways, and lead him in the way everlasting.  
Surely it becomes us to put off sloth, and  
be at work. The heathen must perishes is  
saved not by <sup>preaching of the</sup> Gospel. Let us therefore  
strive to be of use to them in some way  
in order that their blood may not be regie-  
red at our hands - and then when we shall  
be done on earth, we will provided we  
continue faithful, meet all the people  
of God in heaven where we shall join  
them in singing praises unto the Lamb for  
ever and ever

... Y →  
C P