

**JOHN WILLIAMS: THE
MARTYR MISSIONARY
OF POLYNESIA**

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John Williams: the martyr missionary of Polynesia by James J. Ellis

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JAMES J. ELLIS

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MARTYR MISSIONARY
OF POLYNESIA**



"BOTH OF THEM COMMENCED BEATING HIM WITH THEIR CLUBS."—PAGE 154.

JOHN WILLIAMS

The Martyr Missionary of Polynesia.

BY

REV. JAMES J. ELLIS.

“A man who has achieved for himself a deathless fame, and concerning whom generations to come will doubtless feel a laudable and reverential curiosity.”—DR. CAMPBELL, ON JOHN WILLIAMS.

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NOTE

ADDRESSED TO THE AUTHOR OF THIS VOLUME

BY THE

REV. S. TAMATOA WILLIAMS.

CATFORD, 31st October, 1889.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have read over and corrected the proof sheets of your *Life of my beloved father*, and in compliance with your request, certify to its general accuracy. May I point out one feature of his work as deserving of notice?—viz., his early employment of native teachers. My father had a good insight into character, and could select and train suitable men for the great work. He was the first of our modern missionaries to use native agents to pioneer the way for more cultured workers. This employment of native teachers has been a striking feature of our South Sea Mission, and may in some degree account for its rapid extension under the Divine blessing.

With good wishes for the success of your little work,

I am, DEAR SIR,

Yours faithfully,

S. TAMATOA WILLIAMS.



PREFACE.

JOHN WILLIAMS must ever occupy a prominent and unique position among missionary heroes. His remarkable mechanical genius, his romantic adventures, and, above all, his tragical death, continue to invest his name with a peculiar charm. His place among the champions of the Cross is peculiarly his own, and in his own form of service, he is certainly inferior to neither Carey nor any other of the mighty men of Mission renown. The chastened sweetness of his disposition, which never degenerated into weakness, his ingenuity in devising expedients, and his resolute persistence in what often appeared to be labour in vain, together with the large heartedness that could "not be confined within the limits of a single reef," constitute him, in the writer's judgment, the very Prince of Missionaries, since the days of the Apostle of the Gentiles.

An attentive study of his private journals has