

sists of twenty-four letters, being the same as our own, with the exception of the *x*, which is wanting. They were kind enough to give me the sounds of the different letters, which are as follows :

A, a, as in father, or in manner.	M, ma.
B, mb, as Bau, sounded Mbau.	N, na.
C, tha or la, sounded tha.	O, o.
D, nda or dina, sounded ndina.	P, pa, it is sounded like va.
E, eda, sounded enda.	Q, nka.
F, fa, sounded like v.	R, ra.
G, nga.	S, sa.
H, there is no aspirate.	T, ta.
I, e, eng.	U, u, French sound.
J, ja, this sound is seldom used.	V, va.
K, ka.	W, wa.
L, la.	Y, ya.

The missionaries were at first inclined to doubt that any affinity existed between the Feejee language and the other dialects of Polynesia ; but this arose from a superficial acquaintance with it, for on close study they became satisfied that their original impressions had been prematurely adopted, and they are now satisfied that it is no more than a branch from the great root whence all the Polynesian languages are derived.

Originality and boldness appear to be the characteristics of the Feejee tongue. It has been found to be extremely copious, for a vocabulary of five thousand six hundred words has been already compiled, and still much remains to be accomplished. It furnishes distinctive names for every shrub and every kind of grass the islands yield ; the names for various kinds of yam amount to more than fifty ; each species of taro and banana has its distinctive appellation ; and there are words for every variety of cocoa-nut, as well as for every stage of its ripeness, from the bud to the mature fruit.

Words may be found to express every disease to which the body is liable, as well as every emotion of the mind.

The most delicate shades of meaning may be expressed ; thus, there are no less than five words equivalent to our "foolishness," each of which has its peculiar signification.

The superlative degree of adjectives is expressed in six or seven different ways ; but all of these are not used at any one place, and this constitutes one of the features to which the differences in dialect are to be ascribed. These differences, however, are only verbal and not idiomatic, and are marked by an omission of letters.

According to the missionaries, at Rewa and in its neighbourhood the language is spoken in its greatest purity. The difference of dialect