

*Nanafatu Island, Central Pacific, August 5, 1874*

## JOURNAL ENTRY

*Apparently the Holy service of Dutch missionary trader, Mr John Bartzholter, has come to a tortuous end. He seems to have gotten into a squabble over some food with the local chiefs at Nannafahtoo and was mercilessly set adrift in one of their pagan canoes without provisions or sail nearly two months ago. On learning this dreadful news, we searched south by southwest for two days, the direction of the prevailing current that pulls away from here this time of year, and reached the atoll spit Mahnoomahnoo on the morning of the third. Rough seas prevented us from landing but the Captain spotted some wreckage on the north side that could have been the remnants of Mr Bartzholter's canoe. There are no trees so it would be easy to determine if anything was moving about. Discounting a solitary loggerhead that slipped into the brine shortly after our arrival, nothing alive came to our vision despite several hours of circumnavigation and anxious perusal. We did see a partially buried patch of white cloth that might have served as a feeble shelter or a distress flag for some unlucky soul. But the nakedness of the land and our proximity would have made even a corpse easy to see from offshore and none was found. It seems certain that fate delivered Mr Bartzholter elsewhere. Since there is no known land lying in the current between this tiny isle and Nannafahtoo to the north or beyond it to the south for nearly three hundred miles, we have concluded with heavy hearts that Mr Bartzholter was thrown by bitter savagery and injustice into a most cruel deprivation and death on the high seas. May God have mercy on his soul. Not a fitting end for a dedicated man who funded his*

*Holy mission by serving as a copra broker for the South Seas trading firm of Godeffroy and Son. The rough treatment he received from the natives in these waters over the past several years is indicative of the need for speeding up the work of the Lord wherever darkness prevails. Captain Pennecrest plans to make a full report of Mr Bartzholter's victimization on return to Samoa and to recommend again that these islands be cleansed of their murderous ways. No man, woman, child, or commerce from the civilized world will pass unthreatened by savage heathenism until all of these islands are wrapped securely in the love of Christian destiny. To that end I am and shall remain eternally dedicated.*

*In Testimony to His Almighty Power,  
Your faithful and humble servant,*

*Rev. Jeremiah Fishburne*

*American Missionary Society  
Honoured Guest, H.M.S. Serpentine*