

Aneiteum, and with upwards of twenty as a body-guard we had not much cause to fear in case of any excitement. To our surprise, however, we saw not a weapon in the hand of any one, nor the slightest approach to any hostile feeling. On former occasions, threatening attitudes were assumed even on landing, whereas we were allowed to traverse the island without the least interruption or any thing like opposition on the part of the natives.

Whatever may be the character and disposition of the Aniwa's, many disturbances on this island have been greatly fomented, if not caused, by evil-disposed Tannese or Erromangans who visit Aniwa from time to time. Tanna and Erromanga are both in sight of Aniwa; so are Fotuna and Aneiteum.

Owing to measles the population of Aniwa is not so large as formerly. There are still some hundreds on it however in ignorance of the saving truths of the gospel. We were thankful, notwithstanding, for the 'day of small things' on Aniwa, and were much pleased to see the numbers collected at both stations. Men, women, and children joined in the worship of Jehovah, and conducted themselves in the most becoming manner whilst Mr. Inglis addressed them through a teacher, who interpreted. We observed a pile of stones which had been objects of worship and which were now given up on renouncing idolatry. We brought away a few stones, not from anything peculiarly remarkable in their appearance, but simply as relics of heathen times. It requires no ordinary sacrifice to part with these household gods, cold and inanimate though they are.

At the second station we were much pleased with the progress made there, considering the brief sojourn of the teacher.—As we passed along we came to several plots of ground used for dancing, holding assemblies, &c., and of course regarded sacred by the natives in their present condition. We remarked the richness and productiveness of the soil and the supply of water in two or three places. We found in the house of the teacher a bag of salt which he had obtained from the rocks. We also passed a lime pit where preparations are being made to build a house for worship or a dwelling for the missionary and teacher by and bye. Several plots were inclosed by fences for bananas, yams, etc., and cocoa-nuts were to be had in abundance.

TANNA.

From Aniwa we proceeded on Saturday evening to Tanna, which we reached next morning and anchored at Port Resolution. We had four services conducted on board the *Dayspring* by Mr. Inglis and myself—two in Aneiteumese and two in English.—

The natives had their worship each morning and evening as well.

On Sabbath evening we went ashore and addressed the natives through an interpreter. All was quiet at Tanna. There may not be much desire as yet for the missionary or the gospel save on the part of a few peaceable natives and from former associations, but there were no symptoms of any desire to annoy or interrupt the service. All listened most attentively and dispersed very quietly. There is no doubt that a wholesome lesson was taught at Tanna, and that Aniwa has profited thereby also.

From inquiry made on the spot we learned that only three persons were killed by the explosion of the shell, and that the man who was cut down by one of the officers is not dead. He was severely wounded. He ought to have been killed for shooting a seaman belonging to the *Curacoa*. Commodore Wiseman spent a few hours only in destroying property. Captain Vernon spent weeks at Samoa in destroying villages and punishing summarily with the sanction of missionaries, and of the British Consul, who is fully satisfied that many valuable lives have thus been preserved and peace secured by firm and prompt measures carried out on that occasion. The Tannese are so accustomed to trade that they seem to care for little unless associated with traffic.

On Monday, the 27th inst., Captain Frazer was busily employed purchasing fowls, yams, bananas, and vegetables in variety for the ship's use. The favourite bait is a stripe of red cotton to fasten round the hair. An observer could not but be struck with the quick, expert manner of the Tannese and their earnestness to obtain the object they desired. The idea occurred to me that if under a superior and spiritual influence these same natives would be most apt to learn and prize saving knowledge.—But oh! how dark and degraded is their present condition—aggravated by many evils learned from men of no principle and no regard for what is human much less what is divine in man. May the day soon come when Tanna shall be delivered from Satan's power.

FOTUNA.

On Tuesday morning we sailed for Fotuna, which we reached on the following morning. Sailing close on the wind with a rough sea we had many cases of sea sickness. I never suffered more severely from that malady than on that Tuesday. The constant motion of the ship was most unpleasant, especially the rolling and jumping fits which the *Dayspring* takes so frequently. I felt as if on a rack, while crockeryware was scattered to and fro like toys in a nursery-room.