

they please in Mota, and, unless there be some special quarrel between two or more villages, scarcely a bow or club are seen.—There is no reluctance shown now in sending boys to the school at Alomak, the name of our station, and no fear is entertained of their being ill-treated by the people of the place. How different from our first winter there!—And in the neighbouring islands which we visit each voyage, we find the most favorable feelings existing. Natives of them all have been with us, and the influence of our Mota scholars, and of our short sojourns at Mota, has extended itself on every side.

We have now twenty-two scholars here, from six of the Banks' Islands, some far more advanced than others, but all of them are trustworthy; their influence for good upon the school cannot be overrated: indeed, the whole character of our school is changed by it; in no former year have we even attempted to do what is being done here now; we had no one sufficiently well-trained to do it. All the necessary cooking for a party of sixty-one is done entirely by Melanesians, under the superintendence of Mr. Pritt, and two young persons from Norfolk Island; while gardening and industrial work form part of the daily employment of us all; and in this way the boys grow up to be really useful to us here, and their help will be invaluable to us on their own island.

This is all the growth of three or four years—the result, humanly speaking, of bringing away two lads from the Banks' Islands to spend a winter at Lifu, five years ago. Six of them will (D. V.) shortly be baptised; and others are, we hope, following closely in their steps. There can be little doubt, humanly speaking, that they will soon be competent to act as teachers to their people.

The ultimate object which we keep in view is the permanent location of native missionaries in their own homes. This whole question of the occupation of the islands by English and native missionaries is much misunderstood. You ought to have the map open before you, and, in the first place, to bear in mind the great difference in climate between the eastern and western islands of the Pacific.

In Polynesia, in the eastern islands of the Pacific, English missionaries have for many years been living. The climate is not unhealthy; the inhabitants all speak dialects of a common language, and natives of one cluster of islands can live without any fear of disease on the other groups.

But in Melanesia no attempt has been made to locate missionaries permanently, if only the five southerly islands are excepted.

The two most southerly of all—the Loyalty Islands—differ altogether from the northern islands; they are exclusively of coral formation, with no dense forests and swamps and rank vegetation. Fever and ague are

unknown there. Anciteum, Tana, and Eromango have been occupied by Scotch and Nova Scotia missionaries.

In discussing the mode by which these islands should be occupied, you must remember that it is generally assumed that a permanent occupation of an island by English missionaries is the only way by which Christianity can be introduced into it.

What I want you to see is, that the attempt has for some years been made to locate permanently *strangers*, almost exclusively from Rarotonga and Samoa on some few islands, and that the attempt has been followed by the most disastrous results.

It was quite natural that men coming from the Eastern Pacific should take it for granted that a plan which was found to answer there might be adopted in the Western Pacific also. In the Eastern Pacific natives of Rarotonga Island, and of the Samoan Islands had been placed with advantage on other groups. They found there a climate like their own, and a common language and similar habits existing among the inhabitants.

But in Melanesia the climate is not like the climate of Polynesia, and the languages and dialects are innumerable. In only five or six of the most southerly of the New Hebrides islands, upwards of seventy Rarotongan and Samoan men, women and children have died; some few have been killed; the rest have wasted away with fever, ague, and dysentery. The climate of Tana has been found no less unhealthy to the Scotch missionaries, among whom, I grieve to say, the mortality in the last four years has been very great. The Loyalty Islands need not be considered. It is known to us all that they form an exception in respect of climate to all other Melanesian islands.

Now we are principally concerned with islands lying from 50 to 400 and 500 miles nearer the Equator than the northernmost of the islands in which all this grievous mortality has taken place. We can have no grounds for supposing them to be more suited to an English constitution than the southern islands; it is reasonable to suppose that the excessive heat would make them less so.

What is then to be done? Are we to abandon the hope of placing missionaries in the New Hebrides, Banks', Santa Cruz, and Solomon Islands, where already we have established in many places friendly relations with the people; where we can in not a few instances speak their languages, and from many of which we have received scholars, during many years past? No, indeed; there is no need to abandon that hope; there is every reason to look forward to its fulfilment.

But we must work on towards this object very cautiously: and we must bear in mind the fact that the work of the English missionaries is to prepare the way in the islands for Melanesian missionaries, and to train natives of