

and their hearts failed. At this moment the prayer was abruptly concluded, and the teachers united in exhorting the savages out of the house. They wished to remain; but the teachers got up and insisted on their going immediately. They then all rushed out of the door, and shut it after them, made for their canoe and were seen no more. They fled thus precipitately no doubt from fear lest alarm being given the people of the village should suddenly fall upon them. Their desire evidently was to despatch the teachers as they were kneeling at prayer; but the Lord mercifully saved them from their hands. These people returned to their own land, disappointed and astonished, without accomplishing their object. The people of Fila, another district, hearing of their failure, derided them, and said they would go and see whether they could not accomplish what the others had failed to do. Accordingly sixty armed men set off in their canoes for the village, where the teachers were; but a strong wind arose with a heavy sea, and their canoes were dashed to pieces on a point of land, when they were about two thirds on their way, and they were obliged to return. The result of these failures upon the minds of the natives was a strong impression that the religion of the teachers must be true, and that their God must be powerful.

Besides these troubles with the natives, all the teachers and their families had suffered from sickness. Three of them and three children had died, and the others were in such ill health that it was deemed necessary to remove them all but one. As there was only one fresh teacher on board, it was found necessary to abandon all the stations except Erakor, where he with the only remaining teacher was stationed. Here the chief named Pomare was kind to the teachers and engaged not only to protect them, but also to follow their instructions. At the other stations the deputation called together the chiefs and others friendly to the teachers and explained to them the reason why they removed the teachers, gave them presents, and promised to do their best to get teachers for them the next voyage. One of the chiefs and a brother expressed a wish

to be taken to Samoa, and were gladly received on board.

The state of the mission on the island at this time was very low. But a favorable reaction took place after the departure of the mission vessel. The labours of the teachers met with encouragement among the natives. Two of H. B. M. ships of war, the *Fly*, Capt. Olive, and the *Havannah*, Capt. Erskine, visited the island, and both of these officers acted in such a manner as left a favorable impression upon the people, so that when the mission vessel returned in 1852, at Erakor, where the teachers were left, and where Mr. Morrison is now stationed, the missionaries found matters as described in the following paragraph of their report:

"While war, cannibalism, murder, and other heathen abominations have encompassed the christian district, unbroken peace has prevailed there; the grosser practices of heathenism have been abandoned; and a very encouraging measure of attention has been given to public services. The average attendance on Sabbath mornings has been above 100; in the afternoon, somewhat less. There have occasionally been much larger congregations, sometimes exceeding 200. They have kept up a monthly missionary prayer meeting, which has been attended on an average by about fifty. The Sabbath is very generally observed in the neighbourhood of the principal station, and at the outstations also by those professedly Christians; some observe family worship, and a few are accustomed to retire for secret prayer. The chapel was erected in 1849. It is built after the manner of Samoan houses and enclosed with reeds. It holds about 150. The teachers have visited more or less regularly two or three outstations. The chief of these are Pango and Ototapu, places in which teachers resided in former years, and at which some impression has been made. At Pango as many as two hundred profess to have received Christianity, and a congregation averaging 100 attend, when the teachers visit it, which is very frequently."

From Erakor they proceeded to Havannah Harbour, where they hoped to resume the mission. They had brought back the chief named Tongalulu, and his brother,