

inhabitants. Mr. Paton's efforts have been wonderfully blessed among these people. He has been here seven years. Formerly he laboured on Tanna for several years. There is one point upon which our people at home are apt to draw wrong conclusions and that is, where the term Christian is used. Often that word should convey no other meaning than that the people to whom it is applied are favourable to Christianity. No doubt you have all read of the "Christian party" on Tanna, for instance, where Messrs. Neilson and Watt are labouring; well, so far as these missionaries know there is not one solitary *Christian* native on that large island. I was astonished to learn that such is the actual fact that not one baptism has been performed there yet, and not more than 100 people attend the Sabbath services including both stations.

Erromanga comes next on our way North. What a thrilling interest attaches to this island, where so many devoted servants of God have fallen! Still it should encourage the hearts of all to learn that Satan's kingdom is beginning to give way, but remember it is only beginning. Very little has been done yet compared with what remains to be accomplished. May the Lord bless the efforts now put forth for the spread of the truth over this dark land!

Our next call was at Pango, Fate, where our friend, M. McKenzie, meets with encouragement already. The seed sown here by Messrs. Morrison and Cosh has borne fruit. Beyond this station we find none but poor degraded heathen who barely tolerate the missionaries for the goods they get from them. Mr. Macdonald, of Havana Harbour, has succumbed to the climate already, so far that he returns to the Colonies to recruit his health. Mr. Milne, of Nguna, has a hard field, being in the midst of a people who are determined to resist the Gospel, for a time at least.

Leaving Nguna we sailed away north 150 miles to Santo, where we found our friend Mr. Goodwill in very critical circumstances. His letters, giving account of his trials and dangers, will reach N. S. as soon as this, so I will leave him to tell his own story.

#### VOYAGE COMPLETED.

In five weeks we accomplished the round of the islands, delivered stores, and collected the missionaries for the Synod meeting at Mr. Murray's station.

We are now about through with the business, and immediately thereafter the vessel returns us to our several homes. We are to be settled at Efif Harbour, Fate, only about four miles from Mr. McKenzie. Our home will be upon a small island with no other inhabitants than our own servants. Our flock lives upon two islands quite near

to us, called Meli and Fila. There are about five hundred of them, and all raw heathens, no teacher having ever been among them. They speak a different language from the rest of the Fatese, and they are the finest-looking natives in the New Hebrides. The field is a very promising one, as there are a great many children among them. We are to be settled as soon as the vessel reaches Fate on her way north, and then we enter upon the difficult task of acquiring a language unknown to Philologists, at least in its minor points.

We have very little to write to our friends, as our time will be fully occupied in getting our house put in order till the return of the vessel on her way to Sydney. She will not return again till next year, so that we ought to send a large mail now. I presume that Mr. Murray will send you the minutes of our Synod.

#### NOT CAST DOWN.

We are not discouraged at the sight of the islands and their inhabitants. The natives are very repulsive to a stranger, but he soon becomes acquainted with them. I believe that it takes a long time to learn the terrible depths of degradation into which they have sunk. These natives make but poor Christians when they do embrace the Gospel. The remnants of their heathen customs are very often seen. We, at home, used to speak of the high morality of Aneityum, and compare them with settlements in N. S. It was quite true that every family conducts family worship, but I am sorry to learn that this does not by any means imply that all these people are really Christians. When they embrace Christianity they readily accept its outward form, but very many give no evidence of any change of heart.

#### HINDRANCES.

This is acknowledged by all who are acquainted with it, as one of the most difficult of mission-fields. The difficulties of our work have not been very clearly set before our people or at least they have not in any degree realized them. Most of these islands are more deeply sunk in vice and far more averse to the Gospel than they were years ago. They have learned very many of the vices of abandoned white men, and by them have been turned more and more against religion.

#### MORE PRAYER.

We need the prayers of the Church, as well as the most strenuous efforts on our part ere these people can be raised to Christianity.

Yours, &c.,

JOSEPH ANNAND.