

## NGUNA.

The next station, north of this, is on the isle of Nguna. It is occupied by the Rev. Mr. Milne of the Otago church. There is only a short distance between it and Havannah Harbour by water. Indeed the four last-named missionaries are living so contiguously to each other, that they can often meet, and we would fain hope that the day is not far distant when you will hear of the *Efate Presbytery*. Besides Nguna, there are three adjacent islets on which Mr. Milne labours. The names of these are Matas, Mou and Peli. The population of Nguna is supposed to be 1000. There are no professedly Christian people on the island, but there is an average attendance of ten at worship, and of *one man* the missionary can now say, "Behold, he prayeth." Let us not "despise this day of small things" there. Mr. Milne and his devoted wife are labouring most zealously for the conversion of the heathen, but feel often, in spite of their efforts to resist the feeling, that they are labouring in vain, and spending their strength for nought. The Nguneses manifest no interest whatever in the Gospel message, and offer more or less opposition to the good work. As Mr. Milne's teacher said to me, "Ngunamen no like missionaries, but like too much *white men* (by whom he meant traders) and tobacco; they like yams and all good things for body, but no like good things for soul." When Mr. Milne tries to preach the gospel to them, they sometimes thrust their fingers into their ears and shout, "we hear you not, we hear you not." Unprincipled traders, also, have been a source of much trial to our excellent brother. Surely the servants of the Lord in this field should have the special prayers of God's people.

## SANTO.

Having taken our leave of Nguna, we sailed next for Espiritu Santo, and after a passage of a night and a day, arrived at Cape Lisborne, where Mr. Goodwill has been labouring for the last three years. We were happy to find the mission family here alive and in the enjoyment of improved health. Mr. and Mrs. Goodwill and their little ones have all suffered very much from this climate, as well as from the superstitions and cruelties of the savages by whom they have been surrounded on Santo. Recently thirty-three of the bushmen made an attack on the missionary, by night, with the intent of taking his life, and afterwards of taking possession of his property; but by means of fire-arms, Mr. Goodwill succeeded in putting the savage enemy to flight. On account of ill-health, Mrs. Goodwill must leave the New Hebrides, and the whole family are now with us, on

their way to Sydney, per mission-ship. Mr. Goodwill, however, will probably return to Santo next year.

## MISSION FAMILIES ON FURLOUGH.

There will be three of our mission families absent from their stations this year, viz., the Patons, Copelands and Goodwills, all leaving on account of ill-health.

## SMALLER ISLANDS.

On our return from Santo, we sighted a number of the northern islands, as Malicolo, Ambryn, St. Bartholomew, Api, and Aurora, but, somewhat to my disappointment, did not touch at any of these to permit me to make explorations. At one time, during the voyage, I had some prospects that I would be able to gratify my strong desire of doing so.

## ANEITYUM.

As it is only a short time since I wrote to you respecting the state of the mission on our own island, I need not dwell upon this subject here. I may state to you, however, a few facts, seeing that you have requested me to send you as many statistics as I can.

The population of Aneityum is estimated at 1500. There are eight churches and fifty-five schools on the island. Church-members 600. The whole population at tend church and school. All above infancy can read. None have ever professedly gone back to heathenism, although you occasionally observe a man who paints his face and lets his hair grow after the heathen fashion, thus declaring that there is still among these people some of the propensity of their forefathers. All wear European clothing. At Aname there is a school for the education of teachers attended by from 80 to 90 teachers and their wives, and the more advanced young men and women, who live within 3 miles of the mission station. At certain seasons, those beyond that distance attend. The school is kept four months in the year—from January to May. The subjects taught are reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, English and singing. At Anelcahat there is a similar institution to be reopened, we hope, this year. The books printed in the native language are the New Testament, Psalms, Genesis, Exodus, six chapters of Daniel, the Book of Jonah, a catechism, hymn book of 50 hymns, a geography, a Scripture history, abridgement of part first of Pilgrim's Progress, several primers and a yearly almanac. Last year missionaries were sent out as follows. 3 to Futuna, 2 to Aniwa, 5 to Kwamera, 4 to Port Resolution, 3 couples and one single man to Efate, and 3 single men to Erromanga. We generally supply a boat's