

seen with our eyes and heard with our ears, and proceeded on our way.

API.

Sept. 17. This island lies to the north of Vate distant between 40 and 50 miles. The ship had never been beyond Vate, so that we were now traversing new and unbroken ground. Our voyage between the two islands occupied twelve or fourteen hours, and during that time we passed no less than ten or twelve small islands, varying in size from two to six miles in circumference. The vegetation on them was most luxuriant, and they are said to be thickly inhabited.

It was with some misgivings that we approached the shores of Api. The reports that we had heard of the island from sandal wood traders were by no means favorable. They were spoken of as very treacherous savages. It is not long since they killed some men who landed from a trading vessel, but the strangers were the first aggressors, by stealing from their plantations.

The ship hove to on the south side of the island and a boat was lowered to land the native whom we had brought from Vate, and if possible, open communication with the natives, as we were anxious to leave teachers. We pulled in near to the shore which was covered with natives attracted by our arrival. The natives held up green branches as tokens of peace, and made signs to us to land but we pointed to a canoe and beckoned to them to come off to us. A canoe was launched and some natives put off in her, but they approached us with caution, until they saw their countryman, who was with us in the boat. We sent him on shore with the Vate native, but we retained some of the natives who came off in the canoe as hostages for their safe return. Our interpreter was instructed to send off any chiefs that were on shore, that we might confer with them. One chief made his appearance in a short time, and we persuaded him to leave his canoe and come into our boat. He was very timid, and notwithstanding our efforts to allay his fears he jumped into the sea and was soon ashore. We now made signs to our Api friend and the Vate native to come off to the boat. We sent them ashore a second time accompanied by a Rarotongan and Aneiteumese whom we instructed to land, if the chiefs would consent to come off to us. This was to us a moment of anxious suspense. Was the door to be opened on Api at this time or not? We were soon cheered by seeing the timid chief once more in a canoe accompanied by an elderly man having all the bearing of a chief about him. These two men we were told were the highest chiefs in the part of the island visited by us, and much deference was paid to them by those who accompanied them. They not only consented this time to come into our boat, but agreed to go with us to the ship. We explained our object to them through our interpreter. They expressed their willingness to receive teachers, and promised to protect them, and treat them kindly.

It was proposed that one of the chiefs should remain on board all night and that the teachers and their wives should spend the night on shore. Two Rarotongans named Sio and Pipo having expressed a wish to remain on this island were instructed to hold themselves in readiness to land. In the course of the evening I took one of the chiefs and the teachers ashore. The beach where we landed was covered with hundreds of natives. As soon as we were on shore the chief went through the crowd ordering them to sit down. But I gave him to understand that we were not afraid, and asked him to allow the people to gratify their curiosity by crowding around us. The teachers wives were special objects of attraction, as they were neatly dressed in rather showy gowns. Our hostages who had spent the greater part of the day on shore gave a good account of the land and people. We saw no houses as the natives all live inland some miles from the shore. All vegetation seemed to be growing with tropical luxuriance. On the following morning the teachers and their wives came off to the ship. They were much pleased with what they saw of their chosen field of labor. Having completed our arrangements with the chiefs and given them liberal presents, to ensure kindness to the teachers, preparations were made to land them. Mr Murray accompanied the little mission party on shore. They left the ship followed by the best wishes and prayers of all on board. Even the hardy sailors appeared to be much moved at the christian heroism manifested by these devoted men and women, who are ready to sacrifice every thing for Jesus' sake and the gospel's. The landing was a lovely scene. When the boxes of the teachers were taken out of the boat Mr Murray proposed a religious service. At his request the chiefs gave the