

It is true that a teacher and his wife from Nova Scotia accompanied Dr. Geddie; but the teacher proved unfaithful, lapsed into evil ways, and was for some time a source of offence and weakness to the mission. A fact, so deplorable is not to be dilated upon, but it ought not to be suppressed; for it illustrates the horrible fascination of heathenism over minds and hearts not filled with the love of Christ. There was on Aneityum a small colony of sandal wood traders, excessively depraved persons who hated the Gospel because it interfered with their vices. These people did all they could against the mission; and Dr. Geddie was hateful to them. They stirred up the heathen against him. At one time a plot was formed to burn the mission premises. A friendly heathen informed Dr. Geddie of the fact. His own countrymen were privy to the plot, which, however, was happily defeated by a heathen chief who respected the missionary and desired his continuance on the island.

STRUGGLING AND WINNING.

Gradually the attendance upon public worship increased. Converts multiplied. The keenest enemies were, one by one, attracted to the Christian side. The "Natmasses," or ghosts, or spirits, of which the natives stood in dread, lost much of their power. The converts were instructed to wear some clothing especially when attending the Sabbath services. It was not an unusual thing to see at meetings men with only a shirt and a black hat; or with a canvas bag with holes for head and hands. Sometimes Dr. Geddie's boat sails would be used for "Sunday best."

For four years Dr. Geddie continued at his post, earnestly appealing to the church at home for a helper. In 1851 he wrote home: "I read with feelings of surprise and dismay that no movement has been made to fill up the vacancy in the mission. I have struggled alone amid difficulties which I believe have fallen to the lot of few missionaries, and