

glad to find them well, and happy in their work. They seem to be pleased with the natives, and the natives appear to be pleased with them; and this mutual good feeling promises well for their future usefulness. The number who attend worship is very small, but Mr. Neilson and the three Aneiteum teachers who assist him are well received by the natives when they visit them on the Sabbath day. There is a growing respect for the ordinances of religion, and natives often enquire about the Sabbath day, that they may abstain from work on it. This is still the day of small things on Tana; but in due time we shall reap if we faint not.

The island of Tana is about 80 miles in circumference, and is one of the most fertile in the group. It contains mountains and table lands in suitable proportions, and the whole is covered with the richest vegetation. The most striking natural object on the island is its volcano, which is very active. The harbour of Port Resolution is small but safe, and will make the island valuable for commercial purposes. The natives are much like the Aneiteumese and the Erromangans, and belong to the Melanesian branch of the human race. The population probably does not exceed 8000 souls. There is an opening for another missionary at present; but four at least are required for this island.

The history of the Tana mission has been a checkered one. This has arisen from accidental circumstances, rather than determined hostility against the gospel. The prospects at present are favourable, and we cherish a hope that the good work now begun will go on until the reign of the Prince of Peace shall become universal on this lovely isle.

#### ANIWA.

This tiny island is eight miles distant from the nearest point of Tana, and fourteen miles from Port Resolution. We left the latter place on the morning of October 7th, and a sail of two hours brought us to our destination. The island of Aniwa is of coralline formation, and the absence of mountains and hills gives it a monotonous appearance. It is less fertile than the surrounding islands in consequence of frequent drought, and the natives live largely on cocoa-nuts. The population is small, being only about 230 souls, and are the same race as the Futunese, and speak the same language.

There is no harbour at Aniwa, so the ship lay off and on while I landed in the boat. Mr. and Mrs. Paton have enjoyed good health during their residence on this island. The missionary work is in a hopeful state, and the natives, with few exceptions, attend public worship on the Sabbath day. Mr. Paton has prepared and printed a school book which some persons are learning to read.

The mission on this island has a history of some interest also. It was opened for the gospel by Aneiteum teachers, one of whom met a violent death. He was killed to revenge the death of a party of Aniwans who were killed on this island more than half a century ago. Our teachers continued to labour after this disaster, and the overthrow of heathenism was the happy result. When the missionary settled on the island two years ago, he found a humble place of worship built on the ground, which from time immemorial had been sacred to the heathen deities, and a pile of stone gods also which the people had cast to the moles and bats. Mr. Paton is assisted at present by one Aneiteum native, but complains of want of help, and has made an urgent request for more teachers.

#### ERROMANGA.

The ship reached this island on the night of October 7th, and we anchored in Dillon's bay. I landed and found Mr. and Mrs. McNair well and in good spirits. The number who favour christianity is on the increase, and the recent death of a hostile chief has weakened the enemies of the cause. Mrs. McNair's presence attracts the women, and the mission premises wear a very domestic appearance. The arrival of the "*Dayspring*" seemed to attract a number of