

Word has obtained an entrance amongst them, and we may indulge the delightful hope, that even the poor cannibals who murdered the first messengers of mercy who landed on their shores, may yet meet the victims of their cruelty around the throne of their common Saviour.

"I have of late," writes Mr. Gordon, under date December 1858, "visited round the East side, which contains a very large population, and have found the natives in general quite accessible. Without a knowledge of their language, it is not very safe to venture among them, because of their enormous desire for human flesh. Several of late have been killed and eaten, and bodies have even been exhumed for food.

I have asked the natives here implicated in the death of Williams and Harris—since I have obtained some correct knowledge of their language—to state to me the facts of the case. They are these:—It was a feast day when the first Mission ship arrived. Other foreigners had, they state, on such occasions seized their food and killed some of them—five were killed on one occasion, the names of whom they have given me. It was not until Mr Williams attempted to walk up the river towards the place where the feast was holden that they resolved to kill him and his companions. And several of them made signs to return to their vessel and not to go up the river. Oviladon is the name of the man who killed them, and he is now with his wife, attending to religious instruction."

FATE.—This large Island has been occupied by Christian Teachers at different times, but the difficulties arising from the ferocity of the inhabitants and the unhealthiness of the climate are very great. In some districts they have more than once killed and eaten the Teachers while not a few others have died from disease. The Gospel, however, appears to have taken a strong hold in one village, and in July, 1858, three teachers, with their wives, were landed amongst them under circumstances of encouragement.

Niua.—A small Island about twelve miles distant from Port Resolution in Tana. The natives having heard of the wonderful things on other islands a party proceeded to Tana to procure a teacher, and on the cruise of the "John Williams" in 1858, she took them back to their own island, with two Aneiteumese Teachers, who were gladly received; and we trust that Niua will not again be left without the presence of Christian Evangelists, but will ultimately partake of the blessings which are now being enjoyed by many other lands once equally benighted.

NEW CALEDONIA.

This large Island which contains a numerous and degraded population, together with the Isle of Pines, lying about thirty miles to the N. E., was early visited by the Missionary ship, and Native Teachers were landed in 1840 and 1841. On both islands there were some tokens of success, but the gospel met with fierce opposition from the heathen, and the Teachers were often in the extreme of danger. They were however on repeated occasions, wonderfully delivered, and were ultimately by necessity removed from their perilous position. The three devoted men who laboured on the Isle of Pines all fell beneath the hand of the savage, and furnished the cannibal feast. But their death was provoked by the unrighteous and cruel conduct of white men. Sandal wood traders had excited the angry passions of the natives, and in a sad massacre which was the result, the Teachers, although blameless lost their lives.

These Islands have been seized by the French Government, and are, we fear, now closed against any efforts we could make for the introduction of Protestant Christianity.

LOYALTY ISLANDS.

Mare.—Native Teachers from Samoa were landed on Mare (Nengone) in 1841. They had much to endure in the first years of their ministry, but in 1845 it was manifest that they had not laboured in vain, for many abandoned heathenism, and attended Christian instruction. In 1854 Messrs. Jones and Creagh were sent out by the Society to Western Polynesia, and after consultation with the Missionaries in Samoa, it was determined that the Loyalty Islands should be their field of labour: and in visiting that group they were stationed on the island of Mare. They were gladly received by hundreds of native converts; but their trials were great, and