

NIUA.

The tidings from Niua are very favorable. The teachers on that island are well, and decidedly making progress. The events on Erromanga and Tana do not appear to have made any unfavorable impression there. A good number of the people are favorable to christianity, and there is no hostile manifestation against it. But this little island has been the scene of a dark deed a few months ago. It appears that a boat arrived one night having on board two white men, and one native woman. One of the white men had formerly lived on the island. A party of natives attacked the boat, and one of the men in her was killed. All the information that could be obtained about the outrage was, that the man who had formerly lived on the island, had left without paying for native produce which he had purchased from the natives, and they were also afraid that the boat was bringing more sickness and death to the island. The conduct of the natives in this matter is deeply to be deplored, but the wonder is that such deeds are not more common. The treatment which natives in general receive at the hands of white men leads them to regard those who come from christian lands as their mortal enemies.

FUTUNA.

The "John Knox" came in yesterday from a visit to Futuna. There is one Raratongan and four Aneiteum teachers on that island. The accounts received are the most encouraging that have ever come from that dark isle. The natives have sent a request for a missionary and more teachers. We have long considered Futuna open, but never so open as at present. A missionary might enter on that island with prospects of safety, and much usefulness.

VATE.

It is several months since we heard from Vate. That island has now become a spot of intense interest, as it contains a christian church in the midst of surrounding heathenism. May that little flock soon have a pastor to break the bread of life to their souls. No time should be lost in settling missionaries on this island. The call for help is loud and clear. The door is most open here. The evangelization of Vate would tell more favorably on the group than the evangelization of any other island in it. It is the central island. The inhabitants are physically, and I believe intellectually, superior to the natives around them. They excel in all the mechanical arts common on these islands. They are a bold, enterprising, and adventurous people. The natives of other islands feel and confess their inferiority. Were this island brought under the influence of the gospel, native teachers in any number might be raised up to carry the tidings of salvation to the dark regions beyond.

MISSIONARY VESSEL.

I trust that our appeal for a missionary vessel will meet with a favorable response. It would add greatly to the safety of the mission, and hasten on the evangelization of the whole group. We have laid the matter before the Presbyterians in New Zealand and the Australian Colonies, and solicited their co-operation and aid. You are aware that the Rev A. W. Murray, who is now in Sydney, has undertaken to do what he can for us, and his connexion with the object will strongly recommend it. He has been successful in awakening a deep and extensive interest in the scheme. As Mr Paton was unemployed after leaving Tana, we appointed him to visit in person the Presbyterian congregations in the colonies as far as possible, and bring the claims of this mission before them, and solicit contributions from the Sabbath school children for our vessel. He is now carrying out with his characteristic zeal, the object which Mr Murray had so successfully begun. It is probable that a considerable amount may be raised in these Colonies. The children of one Sabbath school in Sydney are aiming to raise £200, and one gentleman in Sydney has promised £25 if the vessel is built there. Mr Murray will keep you and our friends in Scotland informed of what is being done in this part of the world. As he has been appointed to represent this mission in the Colonies, you can always confer with him on the subject.

NATIVE AGENCY.

The events that have taken place on Erromanga and Tana have brought the subject of native agency impressively before us. The want of this more than any