

colour, and needs to be baked previous to its being brought to the table.

Arrowroot grows like potatoes, and is prepared like potatoe starch, by grating, straining, washing, drying, &c., &c.

Taro, breadfruit, bananas, are very perishable; they keep only for a short time. Yams will keep for months; and prepared *arrowroot*, for years.

Anciteum is very mountainous, evidently of volcanic origin. Its scenery is bold and varied. Its hills are generally clad with forests. Its valleys are remarkably fertile. But I cannot trespass more at present on your time and space.

Yours very truly,
DONALD MORRISON.

Anciteum, June 14th, 1864.

VISIT TO OTHER ISLANDS.

Off the Western coast of Lifu, on board the *Dayspring*, July 5th 1864.

The above was written before we left Anciteum, in order to be left there for the *John Williams* to be taken to Sydney. I next thought of taking it to Mare as the *John Williams* is to call there.

Since the above was written we visited, first Mare, both at Mr. Jones and Mr. Creagh's stations. Accompanied by Mr. Jones Mr. and Mrs. Creagh, we proceeded to Lifu, where Messrs. Sleigh and McFarlane labour. Mr. McFarlane being at the only harbour or roadstead on the island we steered thither.

At Mare we were told by the brethren labouring there, that lately the French Governor had paid a visit to that island apprising them that the French had now added the group to their possessions in the South Seas. As a result of this he went on to give them laws or rather verbal regulations by which they were to guide their conduct in the future. One was that no teachers from other islands were to labour there any longer. A second was that the missionaries were to close their own schools till such time as they might have licence from the authorities in New Caledonia to teach French. Third, that in order to live legally on the island they must have "a permit of residence." A fourth, that they must not make any more efforts to convert the re-

maining heathen on the island, nor preach to Roman Catholic converts. They were thus barely allowed to preach to their own people, and the hundreds formerly taught, in various situations, by teachers, must no longer receive any instructions, but such as the English missionaries could give them.

Thus by one sweep the schools are closed, the native teachers silenced, the heathen deprived of the Gospel, the Christians starved for want of it, and the missionaries overburdened with work, and their residence in the island made illegal. With heavy hearts we went to Lifu, knowing that matters would not be better, as that had a harbour affording better shelter to vessels than on Mare.

When we sighted Lifu station, what was our astonishment at recognising the devastations of fire among the cocoa trees overshadowing the village. We draw near. A French war steamer is in the roadstead, and men march up and down between blazing fires around Mr McFarlane's Church. We begin to surmise evil. But our anchor is scarcely at the bottom, when our worst fears are verified by a boat from the French steamer. We are told that war had been raging for the last few days between the natives and the French, that none of us must land on pain of being made prisoners of war, without permission from the French officials. Nor was Mr. McFarlane, or Mr. Sleigh allowed to come to see us.

The French had burnt the native village to ashes, had scattered the people, had taken possession of the church, and converted it into quarters for the French Commodore, who turned the pulpit into a bedstead, burnt up the forms or seats for fuel, and converted the cushions in Mr. McFarlane's pew into pillows for his marines. In the skirmishes between the French and natives, one of the former and eight of the latter were killed.

The ostensible cause of the rupture was: The French Governor wanted the natives to appear before him. They, fearing violence or treachery, fled and hid in the woods.— This was on Thursday. The same day their houses were pillaged by Roman Catholic natives accompanying the French marines. On Friday as they were assembled in church