

ports of the missionary. Strange and mysterious providence to us, writes the missionary, when there is so much to do and so few to do it, a remark which is followed by the well timed and significant request, Brethren, pray for us.

Things on Erromanga, Mr. McNair writes, look as favourable and as hopeful as we could well expect. Three or four couple go out on Sabbath to preach in heathen villages. On some days very few come out to hear, while on others as many as you could well expect.

But Mr. McNair is anxious, as Mr. Gordon was and still is, to gain a farther acquaintance with other portions of the island, and has expressed an earnest desire for a mission boat which he himself could sail, and thus explore these portions of the island, and visit the people contiguous to the coast line. Before the Board had an opportunity of considering his request, they noticed that he had applied to Rev. George Mackie, one of the conveners of the Victorian Committee on Foreign Missions, and it is probable that his application will be responded to by some of the wealthy merchants of Melbourne. In the *Christian Review* for March, Mr. Mackie writes, "Next year I intend to have the request of Mr. McNair gratified, viz., to send free of all cost to him such a boat as his necessities require." The Board would now propose that in the event of this expectation being realized to recommend that a small annual grant, be authorized to aid our missionary in keeping her afloat and in sailing trim. Mr. McNair succeeds men of faith and courage at Dillon's Bay, and in these respects has already proved himself worthy of his position. He takes a sound view of the state and character of the savage races to whom he has been sent with the Gospel in charge, and with manly zeal faces the perils and grapples with the difficulties of the situation. Mrs. McNair has been mercifully restored and strengthened, and by her very presence and still more by her co-operation and work fairly begun among her own sex, her husband's prospects of usefulness and success have been visibly increased. May the Lord give his people at home the Holy Spirit, the author of effectual fervent prayer as a pledge of the success of His own work on this dark isle of the ocean, and may the brethren who now occupy different sides of it be strong and of good courage. May they be steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as they know that their labour is not in vain in the Lord.

#### SETTLEMENT OF MR. NEILSON ON TANNA.

One of the most joyful events of the year past has been the settlement of Mr. Neilson on the island of Tanna. It will be

remembered by the members of Synod that last year Rev. Dr. Geddie, Rev. John Ingles and Rev. Thomas Neilson visited Tanna in expectation of settling Mr. Neilson at or near Port Resolution, but they met with unexpected hostility. It is now known that this repulse was the effect of foreign influence and intrigue. Men of our own nation and claiming the Christian name had more to do with it than the poor deluded Tannese who were tools in their hands. Providence having called away one of these enemies of the Gospel by death, and the other having left the island, the opposition entirely disappeared, and Mr. Neilson has since landed accompanied by Dr. Geddie, and has been treated in some cases with kindness and in all without any hostility. He is making progress with the language, and has regular meetings with such of the people as choose to attend, the audience being variable. Two Aneiteumese extend teachers' visits to some neighboring villages.

The Tannese are engaged in fighting. While traders supply the belligerents with powder and ball and muskets, in return for sulphur found in the vicinity of the volcano, Mr. Neilson has been repeatedly sent for to visit and exert his skill in relieving the sufferings of the wounded. He has thus penetrated some ten miles into the interior, seeing the country and gaining access to, and acquaintance with, the people. He has found the interior land fertile, and the population more numerous than he expected. The latest word is that even the contending parties in the war continue both friendly to the missionary, and that he feels warranted now in going out personally to surrounding villages along with the Aneiteumese. In this commencement, all, but more especially those who knew most, of the opposition of Satan and his emissaries on that island in time past, will feel a thrill of joy, and while they rejoice with trembling, will bring Mr. Neilson's position and effort before the Master in prayer.

#### FUTUNA.

From other islands we hear of progress. From Futuna, Mr. Copeland writes: "Our work is more hopeful now. We can see a change, the beginning of which we cannot precisely date. It has been quite marked for the last seven weeks (letter dated Nov. 20th). The number of readers has increased, and also the attendance on Sabbaths. Three little girls expressed a wish to live on one premises. One man, the son of the high priest of the island, has cut off his hair (one of the badges of heathenism), and has begun to speak in favour of Christianity. We hold service at three new places, making six in all.