

having made arrangements for the continued occupation of the island, and having occupied two new stations under favorable circumstances, the deputation returned to Aneiteum, where it was decided that Mr. Geddie should be settled. The decision we doubt not was wise and arrived at under the direction of the great Head of the Church.

The events that followed upon Fate are described in the following extract from the Report of the deputation which visited the island in September, 1849.

"For two or three months after the last visit, considerable numbers attended the services on Sabbath at the several stations. Epidemics then took place; first disease of the eyes, then of the chest, fever, &c., and by these many were carried off. For these and other evils the teachers were blamed, and the consequence was a general abandonment of them and their message. From that time the Sabbath was not observed at any of the stations. Seldom any except a few individuals belonging to the families of the chiefs with whom the teachers lived, attended the services on that day. The people could not bear the restraints of religion. No schools could be held, the parents being angry when their children went to school, as they rather wished them to go to work.—Wars were very frequent, harrassing and distressing. The people were displeased with the teachers for not engaging in them, and angry with them for forbidding them. All the misfortunes connected with them were attributed to them and their religion. Diseases were still very frequent, and often fatal; and whether they happened among the people or the pigs, their causes and consequences were ascribed to the teachers.—On account of all these things, and urged on by their covetous desires, the people at the different stations threatened to kill them. Their plantations and houses at some of the stations were destroyed, and they themselves had to take refuge at the houses of the chiefs.

"About two months previous to our arrival, an attempt was made to murder the teachers, who were stationed at the large harbour by the people of another district named Mele. Desirous to obtain the pigs and other property of the teachers, thirty

armed men set off in a large canoe with the design of killing them. They reached the teachers house at midnight, and roused them up, pretending that they had come on a friendly visit, and asked them to go and help them to pull the canoe out of the water; designing when they got them outside the house to despatch them. They however did not go. That night these murderous fellows slept at the teachers house, and next morning the latter prepared food for them and treated them kindly. The whole day the savages watched for an opportunity to fall upon the teachers, unawares. A number of them pretended to go to a neighbouring village to barter, and returned in the evening after sunset. Some of them went up to the teachers house, and said they had brought cocoa nuts for them, and requested them to go down to the canoe and fetch them. Meanwhile, others of their number were lying in ambush, ready to rush upon them in the event of their going. In this also they were disappointed. The teachers would not go. At length they all went into the teachers house, taking their hatchets with them. The hour of prayer came and these savage men, each with his hatchet in his hand, sat down with the people to worship. One of them, with his hatchet over his shoulder, placed himself opposite the teacher who was to conduct the worship.—The teacher observing it, took the hatchet from him, and laid it down beside him, saying it was not proper so to sit during worship; but the man took his hatchet up again, saying there was no harm. The teachers now became alarmed, especially as they heard the savages speaking to each other in a dialect they did not well understand. The teacher who was to conduct the worship said to the others, "Keep your eyes open and look about you; these men must have some bad intention." The worship then proceeded, and the savages raised themselves and lifted their hatchets, but their hands trembled and their hearts failed them. One of them whispered not to strike as the teachers were looking. The teachers then tried to go on with the prayer and again these men made a move and raised their hatchets, but again their hands trembled