

was to be expected. At Futuna, the afternoon service took place during the eclipse of the sun. Mr. Copeland met with the Futunese in the church, and I held a short service in the schoolroom with the Aneityumese teachers, and some other Aneityumese who were there at the time, and the drift of our remarks was somewhat as follows:—"Your wise men formerly professed, and the wise men among the heathen in all these islands still profess, to make rain and wind, good weather and bad weather, health and sickness, to kill and to cure, at their pleasure. Our wise men never profess to do any such things, because they know that God only can make rain and wind, send sickness and death, give life and health, make food plentiful or cause famine; but they can do what the wise men among the heathen never attempted to do: they tell long beforehand when the sun or moon will die (the native phrase for an eclipse); and why. How do they know this? They know it, because they study the works of God, and they find that all the works of God are true. Everything that God does, and everything that God says, is true. He has spoken a law to the sun and to the moon, and they hear His word and obey His law. He has made the paths of the sun and of the moon so true and exact, and He has made the rate of their travelling along these paths so true and exact, that our wise men, who search out these things, can, by counting, tell long beforehand the very month, and day, and hour, when we may see them pass one another. Everything that God does is true; there is nothing deceitful in it; and everything that God says is true; His word is as true as His works. In the Bible He says that every one who believes in Christ, and repent of his sins, shall be saved, and go to heaven; but that every one who refuses to believe in Christ, and to repent of his sins, shall be condemned, and go to hell. And as certainly as the predicted eclipse has been seen to-day, so certainly will God's word about our souls be found true at the day of death and the day of judgment."

EVIDENCES.

During our stay at Futuna the natives of that island had another lecture read to them on the evidences of Christianity, more convincing to their minds than the whole of Butler's "Analogy," with the volumes of Paley and Chalmers on the evidences superadded. "Ye men of Athens," said Paul, "I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious;" or, as most critics render it, "very religious." The Futunese, like the Athenians, are "very religious" in their own way. Till certain religious ceremonies and observances have been attended to, they will not plant a single yam, otherwise,

it is believed, the yams would not grow, or some calamity, such as sickness or death, would befall the man who planted them.—Last year Mr. Copeland had some yams planted in his garden before any of these ceremonies had been performed by the sacred man, and they were now ripe. A day was appointed for their being dug; and a number of natives, heathen and Christian, were invited, and came to see the produce taken up. The mounds were opened by the Aneityumese teachers, and out came such yams as had scarcely ever been seen on Futuna, to the great delight of the Christian natives, but to the manifest surprise and confusion of the heathen. But, alas! it is here as well as elsewhere,

"Convince a man against his will,
He's of the same opinion still."

The following Sabbath came, but there was no accession to the number of worshippers. Many an infidel has read Butler, or Paley, or Chalmers, and remained as much an infidel as before. The Pharisees saw our Saviour's miracles, and yet rejected His mission. No doubt the heathen on Futuna would say, as other heathen have repeatedly said, that it might do very well for Mr. Copeland or the Aneityumese to plant their yams without propitiating the gods of Futuna, because they were foreigners, but it would be perilous for them; the gods would certainly be angry, and punish them. No one who has not grappled with the superstitions of heathenism, can have any idea of the darkness, and hardness, and obstinacy of the heathen heart. Nothing can change it but Divine power. Still, the more suitable the means, and the more diligently these are employed, the more confidently may we expect the Spirit's influences from on high. Exhibitions such as these, serve very much the same purposes among the heathen that lectures and essays on the evidences do among ourselves.

BAPTISM AND LORD'S SUPPER.

On the forenoon of Sabbath, the 11th of June, I baptized Margaret Isabella Copeland; on the afternoon of the same day, Mr. Copeland dispensed the ordinance of the Lord's Supper for the first time on Futuna. No native of Futuna has as yet been admitted to the fellowship of the Church; but about one hundred and fifty of them have placed themselves under Christian instruction.

On the forenoon of Sabbath, the 2nd of July, I baptized Francis Hume Lyall Paton, on Aniwa. The Lord's Supper had been dispensed the Sabbath before. The "Day-spring" had been fully a week longer in arriving with the missionaries than had been expected, and as all the arrangements had been made, it was deemed inexpedient to postpone it till our arrival. About thirty