

and climbing over the boarding-nettings, very soon filled the ship. This had excited in the young man I had as captain, some apprehensions, and unknown to me, he loaded a small brass blunderbuss with eight bullets, and returned it to its usual place. The old chief perceiving this weapon, and thinking it would materially assist him in the conquest of his enemies, took it down and began to examine it. He cocked it, with its muzzle directed towards myself (Mr. W.) and was just about to pull the trigger, when John Wright, our interpreter, said, 'Stop, perhaps it is loaded.' At this moment the Captain rushed from the deck into the cabin, and exclaimed, 'Oh, Sir, you have nearly been blown to atoms! why did you let the chief touch that blunderbuss? I had just loaded it with eight bullets! Thus I have been preserved from dangers and from death, by sea and by land, some designed and some otherwise.'

Four teachers, by especial request, were stationed with Malietsa, and four with his brother Tamalelangi. The interview between the Missionaries and the chiefs was most gratifying. The former spent the evening of the day with the teachers in prayer and conversation, and were much pleased with the spirit they evinced.

'Having now accomplished all we could, we thought of our beloved wives and children at home, and prepared for our departure. After commending our friends to the gracious protection of God, and supplicating his special blessing upon their labours, we walked down to the beach, accompanied by the teachers, their wives and children, who wept bitterly at parting from us. Many hundreds also of the natives crowded round us, by all of whom we were treated with the greatest possible respect, and these rent the air with their affectionate salutations, exclaiming, *Ole alofa i le alii*, 'Great is our affection for you English Chiefs.'

Matetau, the chief of the neighbouring island of Monono, who was a very large and powerful man, came to see them, and on urging exceedingly to have a teacher, obtained a promise that one should be sent. Arriving off the beautiful island of Monono, they presented their gigantic guest with two axes, two hatchets, four knives, two pairs of scissors, a small looking-glass and some blue beads, on receiving which he seized them by the head, gave them a hearty rub with his nose, leaped hastily into his canoe, and sailed away, highly delighted with his present, and not less so with the prospect of having a teacher to instruct him. He speedily returned to express his gratitude by bringing them some food for their long voyage.

They designed to visit Savage Island, in returning, in order to leave the young men they had taken from thence, on one of whose minds very favourable impressions had been made, but were prevented from accomplishing their object by head winds: they were however subsequently sent home from Raiatea in the Messenger of Peace, which was employed in conveying Mr. and Mrs. Crosh to New South Wales. Failing in reaching Savage Island, and their provisions being scanty, they steered for Rorotonga, which they happily reached in seven days, having sailed in that time a distance of eight hundred miles due east! an extraordinary occurrence in these latitudes, where the trade wind, with few variations, prevails from the

eastward. They remained here but a few days, having found the pestilence, which was making such devastation when they left, entirely subsided; and as the wind continued fair, they called at Mangia and Rurutu. Leaving Rurutu, they reached Tahiti, a distance of three hundred and fifty miles, in 49 hours! It is worthy of especial notice, that after the fair wind sprang up, 200 miles west of Savage Island, they sailed, in the short space of 15 days, a distance of 17 or 19 hundred miles to the eastward—an instance perhaps, unparalleled in the history of tropical navigation. On arriving at Tahiti they were cordially welcomed by their brethren, who having heard of numerous shipwrecks since they sailed, had entertained serious apprehensions on their account, but now were delighted to hear of the success of their enterprize. After having remained a Sabbath with their beloved friends Mr. and Mrs. Simpson, they sailed for Huapine, where Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Platt were spending a few days with Mrs. Barff, anxiously waiting their arrival. It is superfluous to add, that it was a happy meeting. Safe and happy themselves, their joy was complete when they found their wives and families in health, and their stations in prosperity. Thus terminated this important voyage, the blessed results of which will be as valuable as the soul, and enduring as eternity.

In 1832, Mr. Williams paid another visit to the Navigators Islands; on his former voyage he visited only two of the Islands, Savaii and Upolu, the largest in the cluster, but the farthest west; in this, he determined to touch at every island in the group; and as he was sailing from the east he resolved to take them in rotation. On the morning of the 17th October they descried land, which proved to be the island of Manua, the most easterly of the Samoa group, and about 250 miles from that on which the Missionaries were residing. On nearing the shore, a number of canoes approached, in one of which some natives stood up and shouted, 'We are Christians; we are waiting for a *falau lotu*, a religion-ship, to bring us some people whom they call Missionaries, to tell us about Jesus Christ. Is yours the ship we are waiting for?' A Missionary was promised. Orosenga and Opi, two islands separated by a narrow channel, about two miles from Manua were next visited. Early the next morning, they made Tutuila, a large island about 40 miles from Manua: at a district called Leone, on the south west, they found about 50 persons who professed to have embraced Christianity, and had built a chapel. A Missionary was here also earnestly requested; but one could not be given. In recording his painful feelings in being compelled to deny this request, Mr. W. says, 'I trust that the day is not distant when Missionaries will not be doled out as they now are, but when their numbers will bear a greater proportion to the wants of the heathen. And why should not this be the case? How many thousands of ships has England sent to foreign countries to spread devastation and death? The money expended in building, equipping, and supporting one of these, would be sufficient, with the Divine blessing, to convey Christianity, with all its domestic comforts, its civilizing effects and spiritual advantages, to hundreds and thousands of people.'