

other church members on board went ashore. Soon after we landed, the *longo* was beaten to give notice that the hour for worship had come. We met in a plain grass house which was made comfortable with mats and native cloth. There seemed to be over two hundred persons present and the house was quite full. One of the Rarotongan evangelists preached a sermon in the Vate language. It next devolved upon me to administer the ordinances of baptism to ten adults and one child. Then followed the dispensing of the Lord's Supper by Mr Murray. During the services of the day four different languages were spoken—the Vatian, Samoan, Aneiteum and English, that all might be edified and hear the wonderful works of God in their own tongue. There was in that interesting and memorable meeting much external diversity, but I trust we were one in heart. It was impossible in our peculiar circumstances not to think of the “general assembly and church of the first born” which shall be made up of persons of “every kindred and people and nation.” At the close of our meeting the little church on Vate was formally constituted. We feel much interest in this little band of witnesses for Christ in the midst of surrounding heathenism. May that tender flock enjoy much of the divine Shepherd's guardianship and care. They need your prayers and I trust these will not be withheld. I shall never forget the day on which it was my privilege to unite with the followers of Christ on Vate in commemorating the dying love of our common Saviour. Angels no doubt were interested spectators of that lovely scene. It must have been a happy day for the native teachers. During their night of toil I sympathized with them in their sorrows, and I now felt that I had a right to rejoice with them in their joys. God has put honour on these humble and devoted men, in making them the instruments of gathering from heathenism the first Christian church on the island. During our visit we opened a new station in the bay at a place called Pango. Some natives came from that district begging teachers. They formerly had Samoa's living among them, but most of them died, and the others were removed. There is reason to hope however, that their labour was not altogether in vain. A small party have built a house and meet on the Sabbath day to pray, but they have no person to teach and guide them. We responded to the call for help from this quarter after receiving a promise from the chiefs that the teachers would be protected and treated kindly. Rokarua a Rarotongan, Thirithiv an Aneiteumese were set apart for Pango, and Tonina a Rarotongan and Vatheia an Aneiteumese were instructed to remain at Erakor the old station.

O for missionaries for Vate. What a blessing it would be to that island if you and our friends would send out two suitable men to occupy it without delay. Five or six will be required to occupy the island fully, but we wish two to begin with. The island has been transferred to us by an arrangement with our brethren of the London Missionary Society, and the teachers are supplied by us this year. I know of no island in the South Pacific which surpasses Vate in loveliness. It is truly a spot of the earth where “every prospect pleases and only man is vile.” It is the central island of the group, and its bays, harbours and rivers will make it valuable at some future day for commercial purposes. The population as far as we can judge is equal to that of Aneiteum, Tana, and Erromanga united. It is said to be sickly, and this is no doubt true of the island at large, but healthy localities may be found on it. The inhabitants are a fine race of people, and much superior to those on the other islands of the group. Their appearance, language, customs and manufactures indicate that there is more of the Malay and less of the Papuan blood among them than among their neighbours. Were this island brought under the influence of the gospel, it would furnish a noble band of teachers to carry the word of God to the dark regions beyond.

At Vate we met with a native of Api. He was anxious to get home to his own island, and as we intended to visit it, we were glad to get him to introduce us. We could not but recognize the hand of God in putting this native in our way, as we had been in search of information about his island during our voyage. Before sailing we proposed to Tanielia, one of the members of the Vatian church, to accompany us. From our knowledge of the man we thought that he might be a valuable assistant to some of the Rarotongan teachers whom we intended to settle on the northerly islands. He is not so likely to suffer from the diseases peculiar to the islands as they are. We sailed from Vate thankful to God for what we had