

PEACE-MAKING : PLOTTING.

In the rainy season, beginning in December and ending in April, high winds, hurricanes and drenching rains are of frequent occurrence. The natives at Dr. Geddie's station attributed a disastrous hurricane which occurred in January, 1849, to a certain wind-maker on the island, and they determined to kill him. Nohoat, the chief, led them forth to battle against the wind-maker and his allies. The two "armies" were within sight of each other and indulging in the shouting, threatening and defying that were the usual prelude of battle. The missionary took up his stand between the two furious hosts, warned them of the sin of going to war, declared to them that Jehovah made the winds and hurricanes, and after most strenuous efforts, during which he risked his own life, he succeeded in putting an end to the strife. This was the first of many glorious victories of love and mercy.

For several years there were from six to ten French Roman Catholic missionaries in Aneityum. They made no progress among the islanders; they did not try to learn the language, and they attempted nothing in the way of instructing the people. In 1850 they withdrew.

Mrs. Geddie taught the women to sing, sew, read and write. Her great difficulty was to secure their attendance with even a reasonable measure of regularity, and it was only after months and years of diligent effort that she succeeded.

During his first year's stay on Aneityum, Dr. Geddie had the invaluable aid and fellowship of Mr. Powell, of the London Missionary Society. Illness compelled Mr. Powell to retire at a very anxious and critical period, when the Gospel was beginning to tell on a portion of the population, and people were taking sides for and against the new religion.