

ly degraded heathen could both read and write. They are liberal contributors to Missionary objects, and nineteen Native Evangelists, many of them with their wives, are now labouring on the yet savage islands of Tana and Futuna. The Educational Institutions on Aneiteum are excellent and flourishing, and the press is actively employed.

*Futuna.*—This is a small Island with a population scarcely exceeding a thousand souls, but it is interesting in the annals of Missionary enterprise as the first of the Islands which Williams visited in his last and fatal voyage. Although favourably impressed by his intercourse with the natives, he did not leave teachers among them on that occasion, but about two years afterwards, two Samoan Evangelists, Samula and Apela, were landed, the former with his wife and child. These devoted men laboured for about four years amongst the savages of Futuna, and not without some evidence of success, when, in the early part of 1845, an epidemic of a severe character visited the Island, and in several instances proved fatal; and the heathen attributing this visitation to the presence and power of the teachers, resolved on their death. They were killed and eaten; the female was offered life, but on condition that she became one of the wives of the chief: to this proposal she nobly replied—"I came to teach you what is right, not to sin amongst you;" and immediately she fell beneath the club of the savage. Futuna was occupied by Christian Teachers in the year 1853, from the infant Church on Aneiteum, and since that time the good work has been carried on with variable success; and from the latest accounts we learn that a few in two or three districts have professed their adherence to Christianity.

*Tana.*—This Island received teachers from Mr. Williams the day before he fell on Eromanga, but two of them soon died. These Islands are peculiarly fatal to foreigners, especially to the natives of Eastern Polynesia, and many Rarotongan and Samoan Teachers have been soon disabled by sickness and compelled to leave, or have been called from their work by death; while one of their number at least fell by the hand of the heathen.

In 1842, Messrs Turner and Nisbet were sent out to occupy this Island. But within a year, after having encountered much suffering and many perils, they were compelled, with the Native Evangelists, to remove to Samoa, where they have since continued to take an active part in the prosperous Mission on that Group. But their residence on Tana was not without good results. The instruction they were able to impart took firm hold on the minds of many, and is still bringing forth fruit; while the knowledge they gained has been exceedingly useful in subsequent operations on this and other Islands.

Of late years Teachers from Aneiteum have been labouring on Tana, with many tokens of success, until, in the latter part of 1858, Messrs. Paton and Copeland from Scotland, and Mr Matheson from Nova Scotia, were landed on that Island, with every prospect of being able to remain.

*Eromanga.*—This Island, where Williams ended his labours, and where Harris fell in the very commencement of his work will ever be regarded with intense interest by the Christian Church. Since that memorable day, Native Evangelists from Samoa and Rarotonga have been repeatedly introduced, but they have seldom been able to remain long; death having soon terminated the labours of some, and severe illness necessitated the removal of others. The presence of European Missionaries, in connection with native agency, is absolutely necessary, in order to a successful prosecution of the work; the medical knowledge of the former being peculiarly valuable, in consequence of the intermittent fevers and ague which so fearfully prevail on this island, and by which many of our devoted Native teachers have been hurried to their graves.

In 1857, the Rev. G. N. Gordon, from Nova Scotia, landed on Eromanga, and amidst many difficulties and dangers he has, till now, continued his labours for the benefit of its awfully degraded inhabitants. He is assisted by Samoan and Rarotongan Teachers, and one Eromangan youth, who was educated and received the Gospel in Samoa. He may be regarded as the first of Eromanga's sons won for Christ. In a recent letter, Mr Gordon gives a fearful description of the present state of the people, and says he does not know of three who have given up heathen practices, although sometimes he has fifty or more to hear the Gospel. But the