

three refugees from Henshaw Town, would prove the death-blow to the poison-bean ordeal, in the whole of this portion of Old Calabar. And I am glad to be able to report, that, on the death of a person of some standing, in Henshaw Town, about a fortnight ago, and when several of the relatives went, as usual, with a charge of *freemason* against some of their neighbours to the Duke, he would not hear their story, scolded them for bringing such a story to him, and then, like Gallio of the olden time (Acts xviii. 16), 'He drove them from the judgment-seat.'

FERNANDO PO.

It was lately stated that thirty-two Popish missionaries, consisting of five priests, nine catechists, eight sisters of charity, and ten artisans and agriculturists, had, on the 14th of May, arrived at Fernando Po. The reports which we have received show that they had very inaccurate information respecting the nature of the country to which they were going, that they have been greatly disappointed, and that the whole affair is likely to be a failure. They were told, ere they left Spain, that fish was in such abundance at Fernando Po, that they could be taken out of the bays merely by dipping a basket in the water; that fowls were so plentiful, that dozens of them could be knocked down with a stick; and that the goats were in groups, jumping from rock to rock, waiting for the gun of the marksman to bring them down. Such visions of plenty, it is needless to say, have not been realized; and even Popish priests feel the calls of hunger, like other men. One of the priests and two of the catechists have gone to Teneriffe, the former from ill health, and the latter from disappointment; six of the sisters have left for Anno Bono; and the only ladies that are now at Fernando Po are, one sixty years of age, and the other sixty-five. It is said that those who remain are doing nothing but ringing bells at their little chapel from morning to night, and occasionally making a procession through the town with crucifixes, chalices, and long candles. During one of these processions, on a Sabbath, a French brig of war, that was there at the time, fired a salute of twenty-one guns, whilst the sailors took part in the show. These are not the persons to instruct and improve the degraded natives of Fernando Po, and the intelligence of their removal will be welcomed with gratitude and praise.

The following deeply interesting account of the Boobies, the native inhabitants of Fernando Po, is by the Rev. Hugh Goldie, who visited that island in the month of January last. Fernando Po, which belongs to Spain, lies about 120 miles from Old Calabar, is nearly 30 miles in length and 20 in breadth, with three ranges of hills, the centre rising into a conical volcanic mountain 10,000 feet high, is very fertile, and contains a native population, estimated at 5,000. No one can read the description here given of this people and their customs, without feeling how deeply heathen ignorance and the power of Satan have degraded and debased them, and without ardently desiring that they were fully favoured with the gospel, which alone, blessed by the Spirit, can enlighten, renew, and elevate them, and enable them to take their place among the children and heirs of God.

Mr. Goldie officiated on Sabbath the 6th of January, at Clarence, the chief town in the island, for Mr. Diboll, the Baptist missionary, in order to allow him to visit Issopu—a Booby village, lying five or six miles up the mountain, where he is attempting to form a station.

The Boobies derived their name by which they are known to Europeans, from their common word of salutation, which sounds something like the English word booby. It is not certain from what part of the neighbouring continent they have come. Bimbia, about twenty miles distant, is the nearest point of the mainland; but, if they landed first, at North West Bay, as some suppose, they may have come from the Delta of the Niger. In their habits, they show an inferiority in many things, to the adjacent tribes of the continent. Their houses consist of one apartment, and are built of rough slabs, put up on end and tied together, giving a wall of about four feet in height. With the exception of the roof, formed of mats, made of the fronds of the palm, a Booby-house might be taken down or put up in a few hours. Each married woman has her own house, apart from that of her husband. Their clothing consists of a piece of mat or cloth, not wrapped round the body, but folded, of a few inches in breadth, and hung in front from a string tied round the loins,