

length of time on this island, at Mr Geddie's station, and had embraced Christianity, returned to their own island, joined themselves to the teachers, and strengthened their hands greatly. The teachers had much to try their faith and patience; but their success has been, upon the whole, fully more than could have been reasonably expected. This year, the deputation in the *John Williams* engaged to visit Futuna, and take our teachers their next year's supplies of clothing, &c.; and if it should appear expedient, they intended also to strengthen the mission by the settlement of a Samoan teacher. From some cause which we have not learned, the *John Williams* did not call at Futuna, and, in consequence of the vessel not calling, I am sorry to say, one of our teachers, Yosefa, has been drowned.

**VISIT TO FUTUNA AND TANA.**—A month after the *John Williams* left this island, as she was not to return here, we sent Pita, the Samoan teacher formerly on Tana, with a strong select crew of natives in our best boat, to visit our teachers on Futuna and Tana. The voyage occupied a fortnight, but the actual sailing was performed in three days.

**TEACHER DROWNED.**—On their return, we learned that ten days before they reached Futuna, a white man who lived there had left Futuna for Anciteum, and that Yosefa and two other natives of this island, besides some natives of Futuna, had accompanied him in his boat. Yosefa was coming over to this island to obtain supplies. As the *John Williams* had not called at Futuna, the teachers' supplies of clothing, fish-hooks, &c., had been quite expended, and as food was scarce on the island, a supply of fish-hooks especially would have helped them much to obtain food. Pita and the natives afterwards ascertained that the boat had not been heard of either at Tana or Eromanga. The only conclusion, therefore, which we could draw was, that as the boat had not come here, it must have gone down at sea, being probably upset in a squall, and all in her had perished. We also learned from them that two canoes had been lost about the same time, one coming from Futuna to this island, and the other going from this island to Tana.

**GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.**—In the boat, in these two canoes, and in another canoe lost some months ago, going from Anciteum to Futuna, no fewer than *eighteen*

men, belonging to my side of the island, have been drowned, besides the white man, and ten or twelve natives of Tana and Futuna. In all, about thirty men have met with a watery grave. This reckless mode of sailing from island to island in native canoes is an evil thing of long standing, and this fearful loss of life at this time, and so recently, has furnished Mr Geddie and me with an opportunity of calling the attention of the natives to the nature of the evil, and the means of preventing it.

**NEED OF A LARGE BOAT.**—As we shall have occasion to visit our teachers frequently in these islands, we are very desirous to procure a large boat, partly or wholly decked, and in which, in ordinary circumstances, there would be no danger in sailing to Futuna, Tana, and Nyua. We should draw our crew from among the most active and skilful native seamen. In such a boat some of our most influential chiefs would have an opportunity of visiting the adjoining islands, and bearing their testimony in behalf of Christianity. In this way the classes that invariably get up these expeditions would get their love of travel gratified, and the temptation to embark in their fragile canoes would be greatly removed. We should not think of getting a boat for this purpose alone; but while the primary object is to maintain a regular intercourse with our teachers, the other object will, we think, be also, in a great measure, gained. The boat which was bought for us in Sydney would have suited this object in a good measure, although it was not intended for this purpose, but to be placed on Tana, principally to furnish the teachers with the means of returning to this island in case of an emergency; subsequently, this arrangement was not thought necessary. But when the *John Williams* reached Samoa, the brethren who were waiting there to proceed to the Loyalty Islands having been disappointed in procuring a boat from Sydney, and seeing ours to be so suitable, as they thought, for their station, they were eager to obtain it; and thinking that a much smaller boat, which was for sale in Samoa, might probably suit our purpose, they bought it and brought it with them. When they arrived here, we felt it to be our duty, in their peculiar circumstances,—about to commence a new mission, and with no other boat,—at once to pass over our large boat and the benefaction of our