

The natives of Faté have since told me that a number of Makuru people were taken to the Feejee Islands under false pretences. To recover their liberty, they stole a small vessel, and, without the aid of any seamen, succeeded in reaching their own island in safety. The vessel was then stripped of every thing, and burnt. The musket which we saw was probably taken out of the captured vessel. It is reported, also, that natives of Tana have stolen at least two boats at the Feejee Islands, and put to sea in them; but, if so, they have never reached their homes.

NGUNA.

October 28th.—We arrived at this pretty Island in the morning. It lies north of Faté, distant about four miles. A reef stretches from the east end of the one island to the east end of the other; and this natural barrier forms a bay, four miles wide and four miles deep, which opens to the west only. A small island called Pele, which lies near the reef, gives additional protection to the bay. Some canoes came near us as we sailed slowly up the bay, but none of the natives in them would come on board. A boat was lowered; and we pulled toward a large canoe near the head of the bay, but the natives in her pulled hard to escape from us. A Faté native stood up in the boat, and called out, as usual, that we were not *white men*, but missionaries, and not to fear us. When they heard their own language and saw the Faté natives they came to us. I asked one of them—who could speak a little English—to come into the boat, and sent one of our boat's crew to take his place in the canoe. We landed and had a pleasant meeting with the natives. They evidently had some vague idea of our peaceful work, for when my interpreter told them that I was a missionary, several of them laid down their spears and bows and arrows on the grass. When I spoke to them about christian teachers, they expressed their willingness to receive them. I touched at two other parts of the island, and the natives were equally friendly. No time should be lost in occupying this island with teachers. If two missionaries also could be settled here, they would, I think, find a healthy climate, and plenty of work. The island itself contains many people; and the missionaries could operate also on the small island of Pele, which is only about a mile distant,—on the island of Maw, which is four or five miles to the eastward,—and on the whole north side of Faté. The missionary work would, I think, advance more rapidly on this group, were we, as a general rule, to begin on the small and healthy islands, and extend from them to the large and more unhealthy ones.

The time to which my voyage among the northern islands of the group was restricted being up, we sailed for the island of Faté. The islands which could not be overtaken this year are Aurora, Pentecost, Leper's Island, Malicolo, Paama, Apee, and Two Hills. The New Hebrides Islands present an interesting field for missionary enterprise, and we cherish a hope that the churches committed to their evangelization will act worthy of their sacred trust. The missionary work on these islands is still in its infancy, and, though something has been accomplished, a great work still remains to be done. It is true that the difficulties to be encountered in evangelizing these islands are numerous and formidable, but by no means insurmountable. The success which has already followed missionary effort among these degraded islanders ought to stir us up to more earnest, prayerful, and self-denying efforts to extend the gospel among them. May God bless and prosper His own work on these islands, so long the scenes of darkness, desolation, and crime, and then shall "the wilderness and the solitary place be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose."

JOHN GEDDIE.

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