

The people were ready to smother us with kindness. Old men and maidens, young men and little children, crowded upon us with every demonstration of gratitude and joy, and it was with difficulty we made our way through the crowd.—The chapel and teacher's house at this Station are exactly similar to those at Avatele, only the chapel is somewhat smaller. As soon as the vessel got sufficiently near to communicate with the shore, the boats were despatched with our female friends and their children. There was quite a scene when the boats reached the shore. Hundreds of natives were assembled; with tumultuous joy they rushed upon the boats, and seized the ladies and children, bearing them off on their backs, or in their arms, as they happened to get hold of them.

"There are other three Stations on the island beside those already mentioned, each of which is occupied by a Samoan Teacher, and at all the state of things is similar. The Teachers reported to us one pleasing circumstance which deserves notice; the census of the present year shows an increase of 400 over the last.—Thus, the population now is 4700 instead of 4300, which it was when last numbered.

"Savage Island is a fine field on which to train Teachers for Missionary work in Western Polynesia. Its own wants, as regards Teachers, will be easily met; and the people are such an energetic, enterprising race, that, when under Christian influence and suitably trained, they are likely to form very effective labourers in breaking up new ground, and preparing the way for Missionaries in their early labours.

"Having taken an affectionate farewell of our esteemed friends, we returned to the ship, and on the evening of Friday, the 23rd of August, we stood for Aneiteum."

It will be seen from the preceding statement that the object of the *John Williams* in visiting Savage Island was the introduction of Mr. and Mrs. LAWES, as the first European labourers among that interesting people; and the following letter, written by the newly arrived Missionary, expresses the joyful reception which he received, and the delightful prospects with which he commenced his labours.

"ALOPI, SAVAGE ISLAND, October 17th, 1861.

"*Rev. and Dear Sir*,—I am glad to be able to tell you of our safe arrival at this place. We left Samoa on the 12th of August, accompanied by the Rev. G. Pratt and family, who were appointed by the Brethren of the Samoan Committee to introduce us to our future sphere of labour. We landed on the 20th of August. We were, indeed, heartily welcomed by the people, who were expecting their promised Missionary. The landing-place was crowded with hundreds of men and women, who were so eager to shake and smell our hands, that it was with difficulty we reached the Teacher's house. The people are very lively and energetic, and no doubt fully merited the name which Captain Cook gave them. We could not help contrasting the two landings—the present and the past. Now, they are all clothed, joyfully welcoming their Missionary—then, they were naked savages, rushing down like wild boars upon their visitors. We found a good house ready for us, which our female friends soon made a comfortable home. As soon as the excitement of our landing had subsided a little, a joyful sound broke upon our ears in the stillness of the evening hour. It was the voice of praise and prayer ascending from around the family altars of a people but fifteen years ago degraded savages. Although there was not much poetry in their hymns, or music in their song, it was a joyful sound to us; no Christian heart could hear it and remain unmoved.

"As soon as our good ship had gone, and I was able to look round upon my field of labour, I was amazed at the extent of the work already done. So far as I have been able to ascertain, there is not a vestige (outwardly) of heathenism remaining; all has crumbled away beneath the power of God's word. There are five good chapels on the island; one of them will hold 1100 people, *but it is too small*. They are fine specimens of native ingenuity; they have been built, of course, without European oversight; except in the doors, there is not a nail in the building; all is firmly tied together with cinnet. The teachers seem worthy men, and God has manifestly been with them in their work: of course, their knowledge is very limited, and the work to be done great and arduous. I am appalled