

and others that he sold natives to the slavers. It is quite probable that all these things may have had something to do with his death. There was a remarkable coincidence between the manner of his death and that of the lamented missionary whose life he seems perseveringly to have sought, for he was cut down by his murderer when he was walking before him unsuspecting of danger. Thus closed the dark and bloody career of this wicked man.

The island of Fate is the central one of the group. It is a rich, fertile, and lovely island, and its circumference cannot be much short of one hundred miles. The population has been much reduced of late years by the introduction of foreign diseases and the slave trade. Were this island under the influence of Christianity, it ought to furnish a noble band of teachers for the more northern islands of the group. The dialect of Fate is extensively known, and it is spoken on several of the smaller islands. In opening up this island for the gospel, many Samoan and Karotongan teachers have died from the diseases peculiar to the climate, and some have found martyrs' graves also. The struggle, we hope, is now over on Fate, and the missionary work seems to be fairly established on the island, and the gospel will advance until the Sun of Righteousness shall dispel the gross darkness which still covers many parts of it.

MINARU, OR ESPIRITU SANTO.

This is the largest island of the group, being about eighty miles long and forty miles wide. It was discovered by the Spanish navigator Quiros in 1606, and supposed by him to be a part of the great southern continent which was then thought to exist. The island is covered with lofty mountains and fertile valleys, which give it a magnificent appearance. Nothing can exceed the luxuriance of the vegetation everywhere. The climate, however, is said to be unhealthy.

We left Fate on the 11th of October, and reached Espiritu Santo on the 13th. We sailed up along the eastern side of the island, rounded the north end, and returned by the west side. Our destination was the west side of the island, for the natives on the east coast are very savage, and shun intercourse with foreigners. We found it difficult to make our way along the coast, as calms prevail during a great part of the year, being caused by the high lands which intercept the regular trade winds. The heat was very oppressive during our visit, and the thermometer stood at 98° in the shade. The constant heat must have a debilitating effect on strangers, but the natives looked robust and healthy. The rain falls here in larger quantities than on the smaller

islands. The natives appear to be a mixed race, some being very light and others very dark. The men wear little covering, and the women less, which gives them a repulsive appearance. All the cruel customs of the other islands prevail here, but the natives seem to indulge less in war.

As soon as we reached the calms on the lee side of the island, the natives came off to trade with yams, &c., for which they received calico, knives, and fish-hooks. On the morning of October the 14th I landed at a place called Pakuru. A large number of men, women, and children collected on the shore, who were friendly, but timid. I asked for the chief, and two venerable-looking old men soon made their appearance. They had all the dignified bearing of chiefs, and their arms, legs, and bodies were loaded with ornaments, such as I had not seen in the southern islands of the group. I explained, through an interpreter, the object of my visit, and before parting gave each of them a present of red calico, which they seemed to value. On the evening of this day some natives came off to the vessel from a place called Pilia, to trade, and one of their number remained on board, intending to land in the morning. We were surprised by a visit from a canoe long after dark, when we were four miles from the land. The natives had come off for the man who intended to spend the night with us. They told us that a vessel had previously come here and stolen a chief and six men, who had gone on board to trade.

October 15th.—We were in sight of a place called Nakw-in-chinu this morning, which had been strongly recommended by a friendly trader as an eligible place for a mission station. There were also two young men here who had spent more than a year with Mr. Gordon on Erromanga, and I was desirous to see them. While we were at breakfast the *Monlevee*, or high chief, came on board. He is a noble-looking man, with a pleasing expression of countenance. His appearance was dignified, and he had on him all the insignia worn by chiefs of the highest rank. We invited him to join us at breakfast, but he declined, and our interpreter said that he would die if he were to eat with us. We were afterwards told that chiefs of his rank have food cooked expressly for themselves, and that no person dare to eat their food, neither dare they eat food prepared for others; the very fire on which their food is cooked is sacred to them. After breakfast the boat was lowered, and the chief accompanied me, leaving his own canoe to follow. We had to pull about six miles, as there was no wind, and the vessel was drifting with the currents. The chief piloted us to a good landing-place near the neat village in which he resides. A large number of men,