

that they would be safely returned to their own island in the course of a few days. There were on board of the same vessel a large number of natives belonging to the Mai or Three Hills, three of whom were chiefs. Captain Fraser was also informed that these men had engaged the slaver to take them to Apee and return them to their own island, a distance of about 20 miles, for which the captain was to be paid in pigs. When last we heard of this vessel she was on her way to the Fijis with her stolen cargo of human beings, suddenly and treacherously torn from friends and home. It makes one almost blush to own a country whose flag covers the infamous traffic which is fast desolating these islands. The arrival of the *Dayspring* seems to have ended the work of the slaver at Tonga at least, for she was soon under weigh after we dropped anchor, and we saw her no more.

The chief Maliseri, whose acquaintance we made last year, came off with some other natives and spent the Sabbath with us. We had a service for their benefit, conducted by Pomal and Laury, two natives of Faté, whose language is understood by the people of Tonga. These dark-hearted men listened attentively to the truths which they had never heard before. They told us that they would like to be taught these things, and when they knew them they would tell their countrymen. One of their number who could talk a little English said, "All man Tongoa like missionary too much; very good missionary stop here; suppose missionary come, man no more fight." The natives on most of the islands seem to know that missionaries are men of peace, and that "the Gospel brings peace on earth and good will towards men." We learned with regret that the two small tribes which inhabit this island had been at war, and, though hostilities had been suspended for a time, friendly intercourse had not yet been resumed.

We landed on Monday morning to view the island. Mr. Milne was much pleased with what he saw of it, and seemed strongly disposed to settle here. The people wished him to remain, and offered a piece of ground for mission premises. This island would be a suitable place for a mission station. The large island of Apee lies to the west, about five miles distant, and there are four small islands on the east side accessible to a boat in all ordinary weather. We left Tonga with pleasant impressions of our visit, and promised to bring at least two native teachers next year.

On our return to Faté on our homeward voyage we heard from some natives who had been at Tonga that we were in danger of capture at that island, though ignorant of it at the time. It appears that one of

the vessels engaged in the traffic in natives took a chief and his six wives to New Caledonia to sell as servants. As polygamy is contrary to French law, they were not allowed to remain. The captain took the chief home, but retained two of his wives, who were disposed of as single women. The reason which he assigns for this extraordinary act is, that the chief had a quarrel with these women, and they were afraid to land. Had his reasons been purely humane in retaining them, he ought to have left them free, and on their own group, and any of our missionaries would have taken charge of them until they could be safely returned to their own home. I have no doubt but a reconciliation would have been easily effected if any breach really existed between the husband and his wives. The captain who took the women has now placed them beyond his control, and they will most probably end their days in a land of strangers. The chief is enraged at the loss of his wives, and now threatens vengeance on the first white men whom he can get within his power. He has not returned to his district since he was landed on his own island, but remains near the anchorage with a party of men ready to fall on the first unsuspecting vessel that may come in their way. Their plan is to crowd on board, seize and kill the crew, and burn the vessel. We probably owe our safety under God to the fact that we always had on board a number of friendly natives. The *Dayspring* might have become an easy prey to such a plot, as we were unsuspecting of danger, and unprepared for it. We hear much of the barbarity of these islanders, but seldom of the exciting causes of it.

MAI, OR THREE HILLS.

We visited this lovely island, and anchored near the shore on the lee side. I attempted to land here last year, but the natives made some hostile demonstrations, and we thought it prudent to leave. They evidently mistook us for enemies, and this will account for our repulse. One of our Faté natives had been here before, and knew the people; and he offered to go ashore, and let them know that we were missionaries. He soon returned to the ship, bringing two chiefs, Nasuma and Paratia, with him. This island has been frequently visited by Bishops Selwyn and Pattison, and we are indebted to the favourable impression made by them for a cordial welcome. The chiefs spent some time on board, and I accompanied them ashore. The landing is not good, and we left the boat at the outer edge of the reef, and waded some distance up to the waist in water. A native offered to carry me, but I preferred walking with Nasuma, who kept hold of my hand until we reached the