

out of the vessel, we all went ashore. The articles belonging to the teachers were stored in a house belonging to the chief. It was not a very good one, but it was such as they possessed. Mr. Paton talked to the people, as he best could, about the worship and the teachers; thereafter we had a short service, and then hurried on board. These teachers are both from Mr. Geddie's side of the island. Black Beach (so called, I suppose, because the sand on the beach is black, and not white as is common) is one of the places on Tana visited by vessels in quest of food. More vessels call there than at Port Resolution. As you are no doubt aware, there have been quarrels also between the white men and the natives there. As being the next most important place after Port Resolution, I hope we shall see it occupied by a missionary before long. There is another place, about five miles to the north-west of Mr. Paton's station, called Wainasi, where vessels can call, and where they occasionally trade. By sea, Black Beach will be thirty miles from Port Resolution.

We left Black Beach in the evening, and made for Erromanga during the night. As it was blowing stiffly, we reached Dillon's Bay about three A.M., on Saturday, Nov. 3. We found that the "Zillah," the Bishop's vessel, had just left on her way to New Zealand. Mr. Pattieson, who had been on one of Bank's Islands, to the north of this group, during the dry season, was on board on his way home. We stayed at Erromanga from Saturday till Monday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon were both well. About thirty were present at worship on Sabbath, but I believe the average attendance is higher. Mr. Gordon read and expounded a part of the second chapter of the Acts to his audience. He has finished the translation of Luke. The natives are reading a small book containing the life of Joseph. They have several young men living on their premises, and also some females. The former are being prepared to act as teachers on different parts of the island. At present there is only one teacher on Erromanga, a native named Mana. The natives under Mr. Gordon do not read so well as the natives here, having been but a short time under instruction; but they can repeat the whole of the multiplication table, a thing that no native, on this side of the island at least, can do. I was particularly struck, on my late visit to these two islands, with one point of difference between the mission stations. At Erromanga you see very few natives, and there is no stir; on Tana, you meet them everywhere, and find them in corners and places where you do not at all times wish to see them. Erromanga is very thinly populated, at least about Dillon's Bay; on Tana the people are very numerous.

On our way from Erromanga to Port Resolution we called at Aniwa for about an hour, as we were short of native food. We found the two Aneiteum teachers there in good health. We also met a Tana man there who said that one of the teachers we had just left at Black Beach had been killed. The story turned out to be a false one. After being out three days and four nights from Erromanga, we reached Port Resolution, and after a stay of a few hours to put Mr. Paton ashore and replenish our stores, we left for Aneiteum on Friday evening, November 9. We got up to an anchorage at Mr. Geddie's on Sabbath evening, about eleven o'clock, to put the minds of the natives of this island at ease about their friends at Black Beach. The vessel next day about mid afternoon, was again on her "watery way" to Tana. In about a week she returned with the cheering intelligence that the teachers were not only alive, but had been kindly treated by the natives.

As far as this island is concerned, there is nothing calling for very particular notice. The times of great excitement and momentous movements here, have passed by. The attendance on the several meetings keeps well up, notwithstanding the murdering to which I subject the language. I am in the midst of my school visitations; the number of these, the distance of a great many of them, and a vertical sun, render this work not a little fatiguing. We have been making an effort lately to root up all the kava on this island. The brethren on Tana requested that no more should go from this island to Tana, as it was impeding them in their work. But you are ready to say, have you been allowing kava to be taken from Aneiteum to Tana in your mission vessel? It has been even so. The teachers there have been getting always a little from their friends here to enable