

ing wore his hair long at one time and dressed it up after the fashion of the natives. He came to this island once with his long hair and went on board of a vessel which was lying here at the time. The captain who was a very respectable man, ordered his crew to seize him and cut off his hair; and he never wore it long after. He never openly quarreled with our teachers, but he exerted a silent influence against them. I have met with him several times, and kept him supplied with books which I thought would be useful to him, but I fear there was little change in him for the better. He died a few months ago and we hope that writers will improve. The natives now say that missionaries and teachers may live on their island, but they do not allow other foreigners to remain. One of our teachers and some Futunese are here at present on a visit.

THE WORK ON NIUA.

The work on the island Niua is in a hopeful state. A small party attend regularly on the means of grace at each of the two stations occupied by our teachers. The heathen are still numerous, but they do not offer any opposition to our teachers, and even receive them kindly when they visit them. A decided impression has been made on this island, which ought to encourage us. Three of the principal chiefs have cut off their long hair which is a badge of heathendom, and several objects of worship have been given to the teachers, which are now on this island. Such acts as these are a sure indication of progress in the right direction. The island though small promises a relative importance. It is not more than 8 miles from the nearest point of Tana, and about 20 miles from Erromanga, and holds intercourse with both these islands. A successful mission on Niua could not fail to operate favourably on them. This island might be occupied by a missionary at any time with the prospect of a rich and speedy harvest and of extensive usefulness.

TANA.

The prospects on Tana begin to brighten a little. Two of our teachers who formerly lived on the island went in the *John Knox* to gain information about the present state of things, on which we could rely.— Their first visit was made to Port Resolution where they met with a welcome reception from the natives. There had not been any fighting there for a considerable time, but matters are still in an unsettled state. There was a prospect, however, that the hostile parties would conclude a treaty of peace; and in that case there will be no difficulty in the way of resuming the mission by native teachers. There is no anger against them, and they might even now return to the island, but in the event of fighting the

mission might be disturbed again, and we deem it wise to delay a few months longer before occupying this station. The mission has still many warm friends at Port Resolution, the most prominent of whom is Nauwar, an old chief who goes about among his dark hearted countrymen doing what good he can. We have two teachers ready to go to Port Resolution as soon as we deem it prudent to send them. The other place visited by the *John Knox* was at the anchorage on the west side of the island, where two teachers formerly lived. The name of this place is *Tonatan*, and it has become memorable as the scene of much bloodshed between the traders and natives some years ago. The chief whose name is Namaripaki has always been friendly to us and his people also. They wish teachers to be sent without delay. I am glad to say that we have two married men, Yausati and Kanyata ready to go, and they are now waiting the arrival of the *John Williams* to take them to their destination. The former of these teachers has lived several years on Tana, and has acquired knowledge and experience which will be useful to him. An application has also been made for teachers from another part of Tana which has never been visited for missionary purposes, but we cannot respond to this appeal at present from want of men.

ERROMANGA.

The tidings from *Erromanga* are much more favorable than we were prepared to expect. You are aware that most of the *Erromangans* who came to this island after the death of their missionary were sent home last year. We appointed two of their number, Mana and Joe, to take the oversight of the work on their own island, until we could send teachers to their aid. There was a little excitement after their return home. That savage Range endeavoured to stir up opposition against them, and some of the heathen seemed disposed to drive them off the island. But Warris a friendly chief, in whose district they reside, told their enemies that they must kill him before interfering with them, and they have not been molested since that time. They built a house on the first mission premises at Dillon's Bay, where they continue to reside. Their first object was to collect around them their former friends, and natives favourable to christianity. Several houses have since been built, and the christian party now form a little community of their own. They meet for school every morning, and hold meetings on Sabbath day at which from 20 to 50 persons attend. Mana and Joe speak with much encouragement about their prospects, and have sent an urgent request to this island for teachers. We have two, Naranhat and Nehieman, in readiness to go by