

## A MANIHIKI EVANGELIST.

THE subjoined letter, from the Rev. A. Buzacott, under date Raratonga, 22nd March 1856, contains an interesting narrative in connexion with a visit paid to the island of Manihiki by the devoted evangelist Maretu :—

As the *John Williams*, previous to her departure for England, could not, according to promise, fetch Maretu, the Raratongan evangelist, from Manihiki, I sent a request to the Rev. Mr. Danon, seamen's chaplain, Honolulu, to insert an appeal in the "Friend," to the captains of whalers coming this way from the Sandwich Islands, to call at Manihiki and bring back Maretu and wife, promising that we would do what we could to remunerate them for their services in provisions, &c. Captain Smith, of the American whale-ship *Scotland*, most promptly and kindly responded to the call, and we were delighted, on the 5th of December last, to welcome back our beloved brother and fellow-labourer at a time when his services were much needed among us.

## MARETU ON BOARD THE WHALE-SHIP.

Maretu speaks very highly of the kindness of Captain Smith, officers and crew, in supplying the wants of the teachers and their wives at Manihiki, and shewing Maretu and wife, &c., great kindness on their passage here. The first night they were on board, Maretu did not know how their minds were affected on the subject of religion, and not understanding the English language, he could not well make himself understood to those on board; still he could not retire to rest without bearing, in a most unostentatious manner, a public testimony for Christ among the strangers.

During the twilight, in one corner of the quarter-deck, he assembled the five Manihikians accompanying him, and offered up solemn prayer to God, committing themselves and fellow voyagers to his kind care. This attracted the attention of the captain, and he gave Maretu to understand that when he prayed again he would like to join with them; and from this time, morning and evening, prayers were attended by the captain, officers and crew, the Scriptures read, and prayer offered by Maretu in the Raratonga language, while, as Maretu relates, the sailors and all were hushed into silence, and those who were obliged to move about to attend to the duties of the ship did it with as little noise as possible during the time of worship. Captain Smith refused to take any remuneration for his kind services.