

and a small steamer which remains in the group, making regular trips around to all the stations. Arrangements have been made for a steamer to call monthly.

All the missionaries, who can do so, meet annually in Synod, in recent years on Aneityum, to consider everything in relation to their work.

#### OUR OWN ISLANDS.

(1.) *Erromanga*, 75 miles in circumference, pop. 2000? The people were the lowest of the New Hebrideans.

Rev. John Williams, of Samoa, and Harris, the first white missionaries to visit the group, were killed on landing here, 20th Nov., 1839. Two Samoan teachers were settled in 1840, were ill-treated, and had to leave.

Rev. G. N. Gordon, of P.E.I., from the Presbyterian Church of N.S., and his English wife, settled 17th June, 1857, and were killed 20th May, 1861.

His brother, J. D. Gordon, then a student-offered to take his place, finished his studies, landed in *Erromanga* in 1864, and he too was killed in March, 1872.

Rev. James McNair and wife, from Scotland, supported by the Presbyterian Church of N.S., labored there from 1867 until 1879, when he died.

Immediately after the murder of Rev. J. D. Gordon, Rev. H. A. Robertson and wife, from Nova Scotia, who had just reached the islands, bravely volunteered to go to *Erromanga*. Oft in peril, they were spared. The Martyr Isle is now Christian, with thirty schools and some 200 communicants.

Mrs. Robertson, worn by the long anxiety and work, has been for two years ill in Australia, where the children are at school, while Mr. R. and the eldest daughter are in the island carrying on the mission.

(2.) *Efate*, about as large as *Erromanga*. The Pres. Ch. of Victoria has a mission on one side of it, at Havanna Harbor. Of the other side, Erakor, our own mission, the following facts may be noted:—

The people were physically and mentally a superior race, but inveterate cannibals, and very cruel pop. of Erakor 800?

The mission ship, John Williams, visited the island in 1845, and left four Samoa teachers. Success varied. Other teachers were settled. Ten natives were baptized and a church organized by Mr. Geddie on a visit in the mission vessel, 13th Sept., 1861, before a missionary was settled.

In 1864 Rev. Donald Morrison, of C.B., and his wife landed as the first missionaries. His health failed. He had to leave in 1867, and died at Auckland, New Zealand, 23rd Oct., 1869.

In 1866 Rev. James Cosh and wife, from Scotland, were settled along with Mr. Morrison. Mrs. Cosh's health failed. They had to leave in 1870. Dr. Cosh has been for many years pastor at Balmain, Sydney, and since Dr. Steele's death has acted as the agent of our own church, in transacting our business in connection with the N. H. mission.

In 1872 Rev. J. W. McKenzie, of Nova Scotia, and wife landed.

Rev. Joseph Annand and wife settled in 1873 in Fila, an islet near Erakor, and labored there until 1877, when he went to Aneityum, and henceforth the Fila formed part of Mr. McKenzie's field.

Mrs. McKenzie, after a noble work of 20 years, died 30th April, 1893, and her husband and eldest daughter are carrying on the mission.

The last stronghold of heathenism yielded within the past two years. The field is Christian. The communion roll is about 160.

(3.) *Santo*, forty by seventy miles, the largest of the group.

Rev. J. D. Gordon visited Santo in June, 1869, and remained four months.

Rev. J. Goodwill and wife, from the Church of Scotland, N.S., landed in 1871, but owing to ill-health, left in 1874, and returned to Nova Scotia.

Rev. J. Annand and wife, after four years, 1873-1877, on Fila, off Erakor, removed to Aneityum, Dr. Geddie's field, where they labored for nine years, when the whole island was transferred to the missionary of the Free Church of Scotland, and the Annands volunteered to open up a new mission in Santo. They were settled July, 1887, on Tangoa, a small islet, from which they work the neighboring mainland of Santo, and have toiled hopefully at the slow and weary, but blessed work, of opening a new mission among a heathen people.

The Mission Synod at its last meeting decided to have an institution for the training of native teachers and workers. It is to be at Mr. Annand's station, and he is to be Principal.

#### ISLANDS ONCE WROUGHT BY OUR CHURCH, AND NOW BY OTHERS.

(1.) *Aneityum*.—Rev. John Geddie was our missionary from 1848 to 1872; Rev. J. D. Murray, Nova Scotia, 1872 to 1876, when, on account of Mrs. Murray's health, he had to leave; and Rev. J. Annand from 1877 to 1886, when, owing to decrease of population, the station was transferred to the Free Church of Scotland, which had a mission on the other side of the island.

(2.) *Tanna*.—Three native teachers from Samoa were settled by Rev. John Williams 18th Nov., 1839, two days before his murder on *Erromanga*. One died, two had to leave.

Messrs. Nisbet and Turner labored for a short time, but had to escape for life in an open boat in 1843.

In 1853 Rev. J. W. Paton and wife, and Rev. J. Copeland and wife, from the Reformed Church of Scotland, and Rev. J. W. Matheson and wife, from Nova Scotia, were settled there. In 1859 Mr. Copeland was removed to another island, and Rev. S. F. Johnson and wife, of Nova Scotia, came to Tanna.

Within three years Mrs. Paton, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. and Mrs. Matheson were dead. Mrs. Johnson went for a time to Aneityum, and Mr. Paton had to escape for his life.

Our church sent no more missionaries to Tanna. The Pres. Ch. of New Zealand has had one there for twenty-five years, Rev. W. and Mrs. Watt. Mrs. Watt died suddenly during the past summer.

Of the work on other islands, space forbids detail. That on our own fields is a sample.

There were fears a few years since of French occupation, and the practical ruin of the mission, but this has passed away.

Whatever of money or life this mission has cost our church, has been more than repaid in the deepened spiritual life at home, and more earnest zeal for the evangelization of the world.

Let us not forget the lonely toilers in the South Pacific Seas, but sustain and cheer them by our help and sympathy and prayers.