

natives was exhausted, and an event took place a few months ago which was likely to lead to serious consequences. A native lad had destroyed a plantation, and fled to the said establishment which has been the usual asylum for evil-doers. The chiefs sent a small party after the lad but he was not given up. A second party was sent with a civil but firm request that he should be delivered up, but they also returned without success. Lathella, who is one of the highest chiefs on the island, went to make a formal demand of the man once more; but he and those with him were fired on; though their mission was pacific and they had no weapons with them. The whole island was soon in a state of ferment. The chiefs now saw that the time was come to determine whether they or these sandal wood men were to be the rulers in their own island. A meeting took place, and it was soon determined to destroy every house belonging to them, put the whole party into their boats, and send them off to Erromanga. Messengers were sent off to all parts of the island to gather the people for the intended assault. As soon as I heard of the excitement, I sent for the principal chiefs, and urged them to pause before having recourse to violence to redress their grievances. My advice to them was to write out a statement of their grievances, and send one of their number to Sydney to lay them before the Governor-General of Australia. They seemed to think (and not without reason) that they had little to expect from British justice in a question between natives and whites. I told them that the safety of the mission was contingent on their being the rulers of the island, and that we were as determined that their authority should be maintained, as our enemies were to trample on it; and that if it were considered necessary either Mr. Copeland or I would accompany any one of their number, and lay the state of the island before the government there. They agreed to my proposals, tho' they did not anticipate any favourable result, but I told them it would be a satisfaction to them always to know that they had done their duty. After leaving me they told the result of our interview, and then gave orders that no natives under any pretence were to have intercourse with any persons belonging to the establishment in question, and that any person would be punished who worked for them, or traded with them.— They also collected at the harbour all the guns on the island and purchased a number of new ones to be in readiness to defend themselves against an attack which they understood was to be made, on the arrival of two vessels which were expected. When the white men heard what was passing among the natives they were put into a great fright. They watched their premises every night expecting to be attacked, but the wicked flee

when no man pursueth. As soon as their fear was known to the natives Lathella was generous enough to write and tell them that though they were few in number and entirely in their power, no native would molest them; and that they intended to refer their difficulties to a British tribunal for settlement. There was no intercourse between the natives and their enemies for several months until a few weeks ago. The head man of the establishment requested an interview with the chiefs, with a view to settle their differences. The result of the meeting was an engagement on his part to deliver up the fugitive from justice, when he had sent on to Erromanga to collect sandal wood, to abstain from all interference in the civil affairs of the island and not to molest the natives in any way. The chiefs on their part will not punish natives who may choose to labour for or trade with the white men. Thus ended this miserable affair which was likely to lead to serious results. It is probable that the parties who caused the trouble will endeavour to behave themselves better in time to come.

VISITS OF THE JOHN KNOX.

The *John Knox* has made two visits this season, and been at Futuna, Niua, Tana and Erromanga, and I am glad to say that the tidings which she brings from these islands are favorable. There is perhaps less to report of *Futuna* than any of the other islands on which our teachers reside. But if we do not see much to encourage here, there is certainly nothing to discourage missionary effort. The teachers are kindly treated, and though comparatively few of the natives attend on their instructions, yet the people at large do not wish them to leave the island. The work has been in a measure stationary, since the sickness which swept over the islands two years ago. The natives seem to entertain the idea that christianity had something to do with that awful scourge as it prevailed only on those islands where missionaries and teachers were labouring. They are free to acknowledge the excellence of our religion and would gladly embrace it, but they dread the consequence.

ENGLISH ENEMIES OF THE GOSPEL.

If the natives are to be believed their dread of christianity has been encouraged by a white man who has resided on this island for several years. He has repeatedly warned them against receiving the word of God lest they should take sick and die. The district in which he resided is the only one on the island on which our teachers have not made some impression. It may seem incredible that our own countrymen should offer such opposition to the gospel as they do, but the truth is many who come to these islands sink down to the level of the heathen themselves. The man of whom I am speak-