

effort and progress during the past year is limited, partly because the agents of this Church in the mission have been reduced to a minimum for we have been brought back numerically to where we were 20 years ago, but chiefly because the slave traffic, to be subsequently referred to, has actually arrested progress and in some cases all but paralyzed the hands of the missionaries.

To mention one or two general features. It may be noted that the Mission Council held their annual Conference meeting at Aniwa, all being present except Rev. Messrs. Cosh and Goodwill, (Mr. Gordon too, was not present having on the previous year retired from the Conference), and adopted the following Minute, "The Reports from the different Stations being given in and found on the whole of an encouraging character, the meeting expresses its gratitude to God for the state and prospects of the mission and exhorts all the members to continued diligence in labour, and increased earnestness in prayer for the Divine blessing to rest upon their labours."

Six teachers with their wives from Rarotonga and two from Niwe or Savage Island had been procured by Dr. Geddie, brought in the *Dayspring* and settled at points where their services were thought to be specially required, on Aniwa to aid Mr. Paton, on Futuna to assist Mr. Copeland, on both sides of Havannah Harbour in Efate and in Nguna to assist Mr. Milne.

Dr. Geddie's latest statement respecting the Aneiteumese is that "the state of religion is on the whole encouraging. Among a large proportion of the young people there has been of late a more than usual attention to religion."

Respecting several of the other islands we have distinct reports from Dr. Geddie and Mr. Inglis* who made separate visits to them in the *Dayspring*, Mr. Inglis before the Mission Conference and Dr. Geddie some time afterward. The former says, "It is three years since I was round the mission, and I felt very much gratified and cheered by what I saw during this voyage. I have at this time seen ten out of our twelve stations that are or have been occupied by missionaries, and everywhere there is a steady healthful progress, a great advance on what I saw three years ago. Our Brethren are all labouring with earnest unremitting diligence, and grappling with formidable difficulties in the spirit of men who have resolved to conquer them."

By both of these Brethren we have reported in Futuna under the labours of Mr. and Mrs. Copeland a marked change in the external appearance of the people, the wearing of clothing and similar indications

* Mr. Copeland's Report had not been accepted when this was written.

of missionary influence. In Tana, mission work is not only tolerated but gradually extending among the people, through the persevering labours of Messrs. Neilson and Watt. At Aniwa Mr. Paton has under his charge 30 church members, and the people of that isle are professedly Christian rather than heathen. On Efate, both Pango and Erakor are vacant, one by the removal of Mr. Cosh, and the other by the death of Mr. Morrison, and yet their people meet and read, and pray and exhort. They received during the year the Gospel by John in their own tongue, and the Elders applied for a missionary to come and dispense among them the Lord's Supper. Mr. Inglis says of the people of Epang that they seem a different race of people from what they were when visited by him seven years ago, and an Aneiteum teacher after spending some time at these stations bears this honourable testimony to their credit. "The people here are all strong in their hearts and all attend church every Sabbath, the second service as well as the first. When the young men of Aneiteum go away in vessels and then come back they are unwilling to attend church and school, but it is quite different here. Some of them came back the other week, but they all come to church and school and the house is full. The three elders are striving to conduct worship in the church and everything is going on well." Receiving this statement with some abatement it still appears that if they are not more honorable than their brethren, they are at least joint participants in that higher life which, replenished from a Divine fountain, makes them green and fruitful even in a time of drought.

KIDNAPPING.

Mr. and Mrs. Milne at Nguna, and Mr. and Mrs. Goodwill at Santo, have been called to contend not only with heathenism but with hostility which the missionaries regard as more to be dreaded and more to be deplored than the opposition of savages. We refer of course to the proceedings of men bearing the Christian name, but who are engaged in a business which places them in opposition to truth, justice, the rights of man and the commands of God.

This business is spoken of by its conductors as a traffic in labour, but by those who call things by their true name, it is called kidnapping and slave trade. From nearly all the islands there comes a cry of blood and vengeance! The lives and liberties of natives have been wantonly sacrificed first, and the lives of traders have paid the penalty next, and very largely during the past year sailors, traders, mates and captains have fallen by clubs, or poisoned arrows, and while some were guilty, others were innocent and suffered under the influence of a