

their houses and make their plantations. The island is healthy, and fever and ague, the bane of other islands, is unknown here. The inhabitants are of Malayan origin, as their language indicates, and they number over 900 souls.

The island was first visited for missionary purposes by the late Mr. Williams, two days before his lamented death on Erromanga. In the year 1841 it was occupied by Samoan teachers, who lived unmolested among the natives for about two years. At the end of that time a fatal disease broke out on the island, for which the teachers were blamed; and the whole party, consisting of two men, two women, and one girl, were cruelly put to death. It is sad to think that the feeble spark of divine light which had begun to kindle on this dark isle should have been so speedily extinguished in martyr blood.

The island was abandoned until 1853, when the work was resumed on it by christian teachers from Aneityum. These men have done much to remove the prejudices of the people against christianity, and to prepare the barren soil for the precious seed of divine truth. Their success has not been always equal to their self-denying efforts, but their labour has not been in vain, and they have been instrumental in preparing the way for more efficient agency.

The Rev. J. Copeland and his devoted wife were appointed to this island two years ago, and have been there ever since. They are assisted in their work by four Aneityumese teachers, and the mission is in a hopeful state. The whole island is now accessible to christian influence, and the natives treat the missionary with respect, and listen to him wherever he goes. A school-book and christian catechism have been prepared and printed in the language of the island, and a few persons are learning to read. The gospel by Mark has been translated, and will be printed in a few months. The missionary work is now fairly begun on this blood-stained island, and shall advance with accelerated progress until it becomes a part of the Redeemer's conquered possession.

TANNA.

This island lies west from Fotuna, and is distant about forty miles. We sailed from the latter place on the afternoon of October 6th, and a run of five hours before the trade winds brought us to Port Resolution. This was the first visit made to Mr. and Mrs. Neilson since their settlement on Tanna, and we were glad to find them well and happy in their work. They seem to be pleased with the natives, and the natives appear to be pleased with them; and this mutual good feeling promises well for their future usefulness. The number

who attend worship is very small, but Mr. Neilson and the three Aneityum teachers who assist him are well received by the natives when they visit them on the Sabbath day. There is a growing respect for the ordinances of religion, and natives often inquire about the Sabbath-day, that they may abstain from work on it. This is still the day of small things on Tanna, but in due time we shall reap if we faint not.

The island of Tanna is about eighty miles in circumference, and is one of the most fertile in the group. It contains mountains and table lands in suitable proportions, and the whole is covered with the richest vegetation. The most striking natural object on the island is its volcano, which is very active. The harbour of Port Resolution is small but safe, and will make the island valuable for commercial purposes. The natives are much like the Aneityumese and the Erromangans, and belong to the Melanesian branch of the human race. The population probably does not exceed 8000 souls. There is an opening for another missionary at present, but four at least are required for this island.

The history of the Tanna mission has been a chequered one. This has arisen from accidental circumstances, rather than determined hostility against the gospel. The prospects at present are favourable, and we cherish a hope that the good work now begun will go on, until the reign of the Prince of Peace shall become universal on this lovely isle.

ANIWA.

This tiny island is eight miles distant from the nearest point of Tanna, and fourteen miles from Port Resolution. We left the latter place on the morning of October 7th, and a sail of two hours brought us to our destination. The island of Aniwa is of coralline formation, and the absence of mountains and hills gives it a monotonous appearance. It is less fertile than the surrounding islands in consequence of frequent drought, and the natives live largely on cocoa-nuts. The population is small, being only about 250 souls, and are the same race as the Fotunese, and speak the same language.

There is no harbor at Aniwa, so the ship lay off and on while I landed in a boat. Mr. and Mrs. Paton have enjoyed good health during their residence on the island. The missionary work is in a hopeful state, and the natives with few exceptions attend worship on the Sabbath-day. Mr. Paton has prepared and printed a school-book, which some persons are learning to read.

The mission on this island has a history of some interest also. It was opened for the gospel by the Aneityum teachers, one