

for a slaver, and it was a long time before we could open communication with them. As we drew near the shore they ran to the bush. We concluded that we had mistaken the place, and were about to leave and search for our friends further along the coast. At last Biantuur, a petty chief who had been some time on Aneiteum, came within speaking reach, and I no sooner called out to him in his language than he made a rush to the boat, and was soon in her. The boat could not land, as there was a heavy surf, so I left her and waded ashore. My friend Biantuur ordered the people to sit down lest they should molest me; but the order was revoked at my urgent request, and I soon had a crowd around me. Men, women, and children seemed glad to see me, and I distributed some presents among them. I was introduced to the highest chief, who is quite a young man. He has hitherto opposed the settlement of Christian teachers, and this is the first instance in which he has been visible during a missionary visit. He seemed friendly, and when I was leaving he accompanied me to the boat, though the water was four or five feet deep. I shall not soon forget Biantuur's kindness to me. All the time I was on shore he remained by my side, and his arm was almost constantly around me. He was much troubled because we would not remain until they could cook food for us, but the sun was down, and the vessel was drifting out from the land, so I was obliged to leave. I was much pleased with my brief visit to this fertile and lovely island; but this pleasure was marred by the thought that the people are still living in the unbroken darkness of heathenism, and none among them to tell them of a Saviour, and warn them to flee from the wrath to come.

TONGOA, AWOS, BUNINGA, TONGARIKI, VALEA.

October 26th.—At daybreak this morning we were close into a cluster of small islands near the centre of the New Hebrides group. They present a singular appearance, and seem to be so many fragments of a larger island, separated by straits of water, varying in width from one to two miles. We hove to near Tongoa, the largest of these five islands, but no natives seemed inclined to come off, so a boat was lowered and I went ashore. The natives here understood the Faté language, so I had no difficulty in communicating with them. They were at first timid, but eventually a large number of men, women and children gathered on the shore. I enquired for the chief, and an elderly man named Maliseri was pointed out to me. I invited him on board the vessel, as I saw the importance of this island as a centre of missionary operations, and wished to have some leisurely conversation about it. He declined at first to accompany me, but the matter was eventually settled by some of the boat's crew remaining on shore as hostages for his safe return. After stating who we were, and endeavouring to make the chief understand fully the object of our visit, I asked if he would be willing to receive Christian teachers, and protect them. His answer was, "It is good; let them come, and we will treat them well." I think the old man was well pleased with his visit on board, for he was standing up in the boat, before he reached the land, giving an eloquent description of it to the natives on shore. His address certainly made an impression, for several of the natives lay down their spears, bows, and arrows, and long handled hatchets, and approached us unarmed. As they all appeared so friendly, the whole boat's crew were allowed to land, and a brisk trade was carried on until it was time to leave. The natives sold various articles of their own manufacture, for which they received red cloth, beads, and fish hooks. I met here a chief from the neighbouring island of Awos, whom I took on board with me, and landed on his own island in the evening. The natives asked me when the *Dayspring* would visit them again, and said they would count the moons until her return. The oft repeated stories of man stealing met us here also. We were told that two slavers had carried off a large number of natives, the people knew not where. They said that they