

to come; and breaks forth into strains of exultation, similar to those transcripts of assurance uttered by the Apostle, "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth: who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea, rather, that is risen again, and who now sitteth and intercedeth for us at God's right hand."

(From *Christian Work throughout the World.*)

### Mission Voyaging in the South Seas.

BY THE MISSIONARY BISHOP.

My dear \* \* \* —We returned on the 7th instant from a voyage of such unusual interest, that I am induced to send you at once a short account of it.

We chartered the "Sea Breeze," schooner, in June last, for four months; she is a vessel of seventy tons register, a little larger than the old "Southern Cross," and as well suited for our purpose as a vessel can be which is built to carry passengers in the ordinary way. No voyage can of course equal in importance those early expeditions of the Primate, when he sailed in his little schooner among seas unknown, to islands never before visited, or visited only by the sandal-wood traders. But I never recollect myself so remarkable a voyage as this last. I do not mean that any new method was adopted in visiting islands, or communicating with the natives. God gave to the Bishop of New Zealand wisdom to see and carry out from the first the plan, which more and more approves itself as the best, and perhaps the only feasible plan, for our peculiar work. But all through this voyage, both in re-visiting islands well known to us, and in commencing the work in other islands, where, amidst the multitude of the Primate's engagements, it had been impossible to keep up our acquaintance with the people, and in opening the way in islands now visited for the first time, from the beginning to the end, it pleased God to prosper us beyond all our utmost hopes. I was not only able to land on many places where, as far as I know, no white man had ever set foot before, but to go inland, to inspect the houses, canoes, &c., in crowded villages (as at Santa Cruz), or to sit for two hours alone amidst a throng of people (as at Pentecost I.), or to walk two miles and a half inland (as at Tasiko or Apee). From no less than eight islands have we for the first time received young people for our school here, and fifty-one Melanesian men, women, and young lads are now with us, gathered from twenty-four islands, exclusive of the islands so long known to us of the Loyalty Group. When you remember that at Santa Cruz, *e. g.* we had never landed before, and that on this voyage I was permitted to go ashore at seven different places in one day,

during which I saw about twelve hundred men; that in all these islands the inhabitants are, to look at, wild, naked, armed with spears and clubs, or bows and poisoned arrows; that every man's hand (as, alas! we find only too soon when we live among them) is against his neighbor, and scenes of violence and bloodshed amongst themselves of frequent occurrence; and that throughout this voyage (during which I landed between seventy and eighty times) not one hand was lifted up against me, not one sign of ill-will exhibited; you will see why I speak and think with real amazement and thankfulness of a voyage accompanied with results so wholly unexpected. I say *results*, for the effecting a safe landing on an island, and, much more, the receiving a native lad from it, is in this sense a result of the great step that has been made in commencing an acquaintance with the people. If I live to make another voyage, I shall no longer go ashore there as a stranger. I know the names of some of the men; I can by signs remind them of some little present made, some little occurrence which took place; we have already something in common, and as far as they know me at all, they know me as a friend. Then some lad is given up to us, the language learned, and a real hold on the island obtained.

The most distant point we reached was the large island Ysabel, in the Solomon Archipelago. From this island a lad has come away with us, and we have also a native boy from an island not many miles distant from Ysabel called Annaha, but marked in the charts (though not correctly) as Florida.

It would weary you, if I wrote of all the numerous adventures and strange scenes which, in such a voyage, we of course experienced. I will give you, if I can, an idea of what took place at some few islands, to illustrate the general character of the voyage.

One of the New Hebrides islands near the middle of the Group was discovered by Cook, and by him called "Three Hills." The central part of it, where we have long had an acquaintance with the natives, is called by them "Mai." Some six years ago we landed there, and two young men came away with us, and spent the summer in New Zealand. Their names were Petere and Lauri; the former was a local chief of some consequence. We took a peculiar interest in this island, finding that a portion of the population consists of a tribe speaking a dialect of the great Polynesian language, of which another dialect is spoken in New Zealand. Every year we have had scholars from Mai, several of whom can read and write. We have landed there times without number, slept ashore three or four times, and are well known, of course, to the inhabitants.

The other day I landed as usual among a crowd of old acquaintances, painted and armed, but of that I saw nothing. Knowing them to be so friendly to us, instead of land-