

from his knowledge and experience, has rendered valuable aid in the selection of Candidates for Church-fellowship, in Scripture translation, and in the general work of this most promising Mission.

In the following letter Mr P. gives a brief notice of what had been effected up to the period of his approaching departure.

' Niue, or Savage Island, April 9 1862.

"DEAR BROTHER,—The time to look for the 'John Williams,' and consequently the termination of my holiday here, has nearly arrived. What I have done during the past eight months will not take many words to narrate. My study of the language of this island while in Samon, enabled me at once to commence preaching and conversing with Candidates.

ENCOURAGING PROGRESS OF THE MISSION— FORMATION OF FIVE CHURCHES.

"Up to the end of last year, I had held 547 Conversations, and as the result, 211 persons were added to the Churches. The two Churches were further subdivided into five, each under a Samoan Teacher. Deacons also were chosen and appointed in each Church.

"I may add a word about the Samoan Teachers—I have lived for days together in each of their families; have met them every week in a Bible Class for their benefit; and have had plenty of opportunity to correct some rather unfavorable impressions against them. Four of them are worthy men, and highly esteemed by the people, amongst whom God has given them great success; but there have been exceptions.

TRANSLATION AND REVISION OF THE SCRIPTURES.

"Giving my whole strength to the revision of the translations made by the Teachers, I have been able to get ready for the press, *Matthew*, *Luke*, and *Acts*, and the day before yesterday I completed the Epistle to the *Philippians*, which I mean to be my farewell to the Churches. My plan has been to compare these translations, sentence by sentence, with our reserved copy of the Samoan revised New Testament, and with the *Textus Receptus*. Then in all cases of difficulty—difficulties peculiar to Polynesia—I referred to the Hawaiian, Tahitian, Rarotongan, and Tongan versions. These are often invaluable where commentators fail. The class of words referring to physical facts is very exact, so that you

may easily decide which should be used. There is very little difficulty with idioms, the languages being very much alike in this respect. Words, however, have often a different shade of meaning here, to what the same words have in Samoan. Finding the edition of the Gospel of Mark (4000) which we brought with us nearly all sold, I have also revised that for a new edition to be bound up with the other books.

CHEERING POSITION AND PROSPECTS OF MR AND MRS LAWES.

"From the commencement of this year I have handed over every department of the work (except translations) to Mr Lawes. He has gained a very fair knowledge of the language, so that there is no reason to fear on that score. Both Mr and Mrs L. like the Natives, which is also a very great point, for, as a natural consequence, the Natives will like them.

"The people are very importunate with us to remain; that of course is out of the question, while Savaii and Lifu have only one missionary each. Besides, Mr Lawes is well able to look after this island himself. If another day he wants help with the translations, I should be willing to come and lend a hand. We have been here long enough to become deeply interested in him and his people and to pray earnestly for their welfare.

'Yours Truly,

"G. PRATT.

"REV. DR. TIDMAN.

THE MASSACRE AT ERROMANGA.

In a letter just received from the Rev Wm. Wyatt Gill, B. A., dated "On board *John Williams*, near Sydney, July 3, 1862," he refers, in the following affecting terms, to the late Mr and Mrs Gordon, who were murdered some time ago by the natives of Erromanga, South Seas: "In the next room to this are sad memorials for the friends of Mrs Gordon of Erromanga. They consist of locks of hair of Mr and Mrs Gordon, matted with their own blood; also poor Mrs Gordon's wedding-ring, taken off the corpse, with a spot of her own blood on it. This is the martyr's crown; and yet the mission is to be recommenced upon our return from Sydney. All honor to the brave hearts of our brethren and our teachers who are determined to raise Erromanga—that forlorn hope of Polynesian missions—to Christ. May God prosper their endeavours!" This mis-