

often stolen in the plantations. The chief Miaki was so enraged about the stealing from Mr. Paton that he threatened some time before our arrival to shoot the first man who should do so again. The bread fruit season is now near at hand, and we hope the natives will then be relieved from their present distress.

As Mr. Paton mentioned that the natives had used threatening language to him, and also expressed doubts as to his personal safety on Tana, it was deemed proper to call a meeting of the chiefs and principal men of his district, and consult them on the subject. They told us that many of the natives had believed the falsehoods of the traders and were angry with him, but that the great majority of the people regarded him as their friend and not as their enemy, and that he had nothing to fear now. We told them we were ready to remove him elsewhere if they did not wish him to remain among them, but they would not consent to part with him. Mr. Paton seemed satisfied with the result of our interview with the chiefs, and thought it would do good.

We spent a quiet Sabbath with Mr. Paton. It gave us great pleasure to unite with the little band who wait on his instructions in the worship of the true God. This is the day of small things on Tana, but there is a rich harvest in the distance. The seed is now being sown, it may be in tears, but there will be a reaping time of joy.

As our time was limited we could not visit the station on the west side of Tana. This is the next place in importance to Port Resolution. Two Aneiteum teachers were stationed there last year. Shortly after they arrived a vessel called there from New Caledonia, and landed some Lifu men who were dying of measles. The teachers and natives being ignorant of the disease soon caught it themselves. The wife and child of one of the teachers died, and the survivors suffered severely. As the new disease appeared so soon after the landing of the teachers many of the natives supposed that christianity had something to do with the sickness, and they were confirmed in this impression by the cruel statements of traders. Their lives were threatened by some of the inland tribes, but the chief in whose district they live, would not allow any injury to be done to them. He took them to his own house for safety, and kept them till the excitement was over. One of the teachers has lately come to this island on a visit to report the state of matters at present. He says the people are not angry with them now, and do not molest them, but they are afraid of christianity. They imagine christianity either brings disease and death with it, or their own deities are enraged with them, and inflict judgments on them, when they receive christian teachers.

#### NIU.

September 10th—Sailed from Tana this morning. A run of three hours with a light breeze brought us to the small island of Niua. This island lies north of Port Resolution and is distant from it about 14 miles. We had ten natives of Tana and Niua on board whom we had brought as passengers. As there is no anchorage at the part of the island where we called, two boats were lowered to land the passengers and supplies for the teachers. We found when we neared the shore that we could not land with the boat as the sea was very heavy, but canoes came to us through the surf and relieved us of all that we had to land.

One of the teachers came off to us and told us that he and his family were well, and that the other teacher who lived at a distance was well, but that his wife had died lately. The measles had been on the island, but coming at a favorable season of the year, had been less fatal than elsewhere. The natives have not been so regular in their attendance on religious instruction as before the sickness, but are not angry with the teachers. Food is very scarce in the island, but the teachers have plantations of their own and are not in any distress. The natives with whom we had intercourse were very friendly and those whom we brought in the ship were disappointed because we could not delay until they brought us a present of yams and sugar cane from their plantations.

It was to us all a matter of deep regret that the measles were taken to Niua by the "John Knox." Those on board were persuaded to take a native from Port Resolution home to his own island. As the sickness had entirely disappeared it was thought that there was no danger of infection. This disease must have been taken in some native property, which the man probably received from some other place.