

missionaries were ashore at the time of her arrival, attending a meeting with the natives. We were about to return to the *Dayspring*, when a boat landed from the cutter near the place where we were. In a few minutes the natives came to tell us that there was a dead man in the boat; we hastened to the spot, and found that it was so. There we saw the body of a Pango man, wrapped up in a mat, who had died not a half-an-hour before. He had left his own island some time previously, to assist in collecting a cargo of natives on the northern islands. When the vessel was at Leper's Island, a poisoned arrow was shot at her boat, which struck this man in the breast, and he had just died from the effects of his wound. The natives became excited when they saw their dead countryman, and began to haul up the boat. The white man who had charge of her being armed, was going to resist; I told him to do nothing to irritate the natives, and to get quietly into our boat, and we would put him on board of his vessel. He wisely took my advice, for the excitement was increasing, and I was glad when we were safely clear of the shore. The boat belonging to the cutter was seized by the natives and carried away, as an expression of their anger on account of the death of their countryman, who was a man of some influence. We called at the cutter to land the white man whom we had saved from trouble, perhaps from something worse. The captain, a man of coarse manners, began to abuse us because the natives had taken his boat. We told him that we had called to land his man, whose life we had probably saved, and expected different treatment from him. His better feelings seemed to gain the ascendancy for a moment, and he made an effort to thank us. While our boat was alongside of the cutter, we saw her living cargo, consisting of men, women, and children, herded together, without distinction of sex, in the most disgusting way. While we were engaged talking, two natives left the cutter and jumped into our boat, and would not leave her. No efforts were made to take them out, and certainly we would not turn them out. They landed on Efate, and we left them there.

ESPIRITO SANTO.

The Rev. J. Goodwill had been settled on this island in July last. The special object of our visit was to remove him for the unhealthy season. The island is reported to be very unhealthy. The site chosen for mission premises is elevated and has a healthy appearance at least. The natives are very inoffensive, and behave with civility and kindness to their missionary. The old chief Lepas is a warm friend.

Mr. Goodwill has not been able to explore much of the island, but he reports

favourably of what he has seen. The land is fertile, and the natives raise large quantities of food. The people are numerous, especially in the inland districts, which are probably more healthy than the shore.—There is frequent intercourse also between Cape Lisburn and the north end of Molliscolo. It is probable that we may yet be able to enter that long-sealed island through Santo at no distant period. Mr. and Mrs. Goodwill have an inviting field of usefulness before them if they can only stand the climate.

The day before our arrival at Santo, a boat's crew consisting of three white men and two Efatisians were taken at a place about 15 miles from Cape Lisburn. She belonged to the "Wild Duck," which we afterwards met at Efate. She had gone on shore to trade for natives, and returned no more. The vessel remained at the place for some days, but the missing boat never turned up. Those on board of the vessel saw large numbers of natives on shore, who made all kinds of hostile demonstrations.—I landed at this place during a former voyage, and requested an interview with the chief and the people, who were collected near the place where I was. My request was declined, and the Santo native who accompanied me said they were very angry with white men, because they had stolen so many of their friends. He advised me to return to the vessel without delay, and seemed quite relieved when I was in the boat once more. The missing crew have doubtless come to an untimely end. It is sad to think of our fellow-creatures losing their lives in so ignoble a cause.

The day after we sailed from Espirito Santo Mr. Goodwill had an attack of fever. The timely use of medicine moderated, but did not entirely arrest it. He still suffers from it, and is likely to do so for some time.

NGUNA.

We called at this island on our way home. Mr. and Mrs. Milne were settled here more than four months ago. We found them occupying a comfortable house for a new station. The natives are inoffensive and very friendly. The station at this place has some peculiar advantages. There is good anchorage and a good landing place. The north side of Efate and some small islands can be visited easily. The language is understood on several of the adjacent islands, which will increase the missionary's usefulness. We have reason to believe also that the island is comparatively healthy. Mr. and Mrs. Milne have commenced their labours at a more than usually privileged station. We left three of our Rarotongan teachers to assist them in their work.

J. GEDDIE.

To the Clerk of New Hebrides Mission.