

and several children. There are about 140 church members on this side of the island. We have ten elders and nine deacons. Before our last communion, one member was excluded for improper conduct. Since March 1858, I find that thirteen have been removed from the roll of members—ten being males and three females; of that number two have died, and two have been restored. The sin in the case of eleven out of the thirteen has been either a violation of the seventh commandment, or some approach to it. Of the eleven, six broke that precept palpably; the other five, though not violating the letter, yet sinned against the spirit. Fornication and adultery are among the besetting sins of all these tribes. When any one falls into this position of disgrace, his friends and the community generally do not spare him at first, but they gradually soften down and treat him as if his conduct were perfectly correct.

THE "JOHN KNOX" AMONG THE ISLANDS.

The *John Knox* has made two trips this year to the adjoining islands, one to Tanna and Nina, and one to Fotuna. I was in the vessel on her visit to the two first islands. We intended to take Fotuna on our way to Tanna, but as the wind did not suit, a subsequent visit had to be made. After the return of the vessel, Mr. Geddie wrote me thus: "The teachers on Fotuna are all well and in good spirits. The people are all quiet, and some progress is being made. They wish a missionary and more Rarotongan and Aneityum teachers. The tidings on the whole have never been so favourable from the island." On Nina, we found the two Aneityum teachers well. During the time that elapsed, from the breaking up of the Tanna mission till the visit of the vessel, we felt anxious about the work there, knowing that some of the Tannese had gone there. The distance from Port Resolution is only fourteen miles, and the direction such that the wind is generally fair. I must say that I was agreeably disappointed to find that not only no disaster had befallen the teachers, but that the work had not even relapsed. I do not say that much progress has been made; that we do not expect. One white man was killed by some of the Nina natives during the rainy months. A boat with some white men had gone to that island; for what purpose I do not know.—The arrived, it would appear, after sunset, and cast anchor, but had not gone ashore. Some of the natives went off and attacked them with clubs and killed one of party. A woman, a native went off and the Loyalty Islands, had a narrow escape. The survivors cut their cable, put to sea, and went to Bromanga. When I asked the cause of this bold and unlooked-for deed, I was told that they (the Ninans) were afraid of the men, lest they carried disease and sickness with them.

At Port Resolution we spent but a few hours. Miaki, of whom you have often heard, came off to us in his canoe. He was shy, as might be expected. He told us that the fighting was over, but that a great many had been killed. Abraham, the Aneityum teacher, and I went ashore to see the mission premises and the natives. We found Mr. Paton's boat under some cocoa nut trees some distance from the mission station. Maiki said he had removed her lest some one should take her away. We saw neither rudder, grapnel, oars, rowlocks, masts, nor sails—nothing but the bare boat. We went along the shore to the mission premises, and found that the boat-house had been destroyed. We saw young cocoa-nuts that had been cut down during the war. On ascending to the dwelling-house, we saw nothing but the marks of destruction, and little remaining of the work of years. The place was overgrown with grass and weeds. The room in which Mrs. Johnston lived had been stripped of all the thatch, and so had also the house in which the teachers lived. We were told the natives took the thatch for their own houses, as the sugar-cane leaf, of which it was made, is scarce at present.—All the glass in the windows has been deliberately smashed, and not a few of the sashes. They have removed every door on the premises, and have not left the worth of sixpence in the dwelling-house. They have even torn down the shelves and presses that had been securely fixed to the walls. Straw, with broken dishes pieces of paper, and other rubbish, covered the floor. A piece of the late Mrs. Paton's piano lay in one of the rooms, and one side of the printing-press I saw outside. The thatch had not been removed from the dwelling-house, but I fear it, too, will be taken. It is not difficult to give you an inventory of all that remains at Port