

the island; but, by the favour of Divine Providence, owing to the frequent visits of the *Dayspring*, they were able to remain at their posts, and the crisis was safely tided over—a matter of great importance in the present state of that island. A similar epidemic appeared on Mare, but in a much milder form. On Fate there have been difficulties of a different character to contend with. Mr. Morrison has been doing all in his power to extend Christianity among the heathen tribes around him. In the end of last year there seemed to be a favourable opening at Ertab, a village to the east of Erakor. For a considerable time parties of Christians went every Sabbath to conduct public worship, and converse with the people. But while this was going on a plot was laid by a party of the heathen, and a young man from Erakor, one of these evangelists, was murdered. This not only arrested all evangelistic efforts in that direction, but it required all Mr. Morrison's tact and prudence to prevent several tribes rushing into war to take revenge for the murder.

ENCOURAGEMENTS.

But notwithstanding these severe trials there has been much to encourage us during the past year; the Mission, as a whole, continues steadily to advance. To commence with Aneiteum. Although two severe epidemics have passed over the island in such rapid succession, the first cutting off so many of the strong, the second so many of the young,—although this year so many parents have been written childless, and laid their dearest earthly hopes in the dust, yet there has been no going back to heathenism, no special murmuring or repining; the spirit of the people, as a whole, has been that of Job, when he said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." During the past year nearly eighty new members have been admitted into the fellowship of the Church by the two missionaries. And that the interest of the people in behalf of the Mission is as lively as ever, has been shown not only in all the usual ways, but was brought out very distinctly on an occasion to which we shall briefly refer. When the *Dayspring* returned from the Loyalty Islands in October, it was found, on examination, that her foremast was so much decayed that it would be dangerous to proceed to sea till it was replaced by a new one. No time was lost: a tree was selected in the forest, cut down, and rough hewed; the natives near the harbour rendered willing assistance; but the bringing of it out to the shore was the most formidable undertaking. On the Friday, messengers were sent to the principal chiefs and teachers; early on Monday morning the whole island was in a state of

excitement; by noon 300 of the most athletic men on Aneiteum were on the spot; every village had sent its quota; ropes were supplied from the vessel; and in two hours the log was dragged by sheer force nearly two miles, from the mountain gorge where it was felled, to the sea-shore. It was then floated and towed to the harbour in the space of other two hours. The work done by the natives was equal to a saving of £50 to the vessel; the mast in its rough state would have cost that sum in Australia, while the promptitude and the heartiness with which the work was done greatly enhanced its value. In less than three weeks from the time the vessel came into the harbour her repairs were all completed, and she was away on another voyage. It is questionable if in either Sydney or Melbourne the work would have been done in less time.

COMMERCE AT ANEITEUM.

An incipient commerce is also springing up on Aneiteum. About 4000 lbs. of cotton, mostly fine Sea Island, and about 2000 lbs. of arrow root, have been exported this year. Another export will ere long be added to the list: the trees in one of the mission gardens this season produced upwards of 10,000 oranges, and orange trees are fast spreading over the island. One of the trading establishments on Aneiteum has a large whaling party every year. This season there were five boats out, and these were nearly all manned with Aneiteum and Mare natives, and they proved most expert and successful whalers.

FOTUNA.

On Fotuna the natives have been quiet, but have not evinced much interest as yet in the Gospel. Mr. and Mrs. Copeland have been applying themselves with great diligence to the language and other preparatory labours, the fruits of which will doubtless appear in due time. This is a very healthy island; the natives appear to have little sickness, and the epidemics that have been so deadly on other islands have not visited Fotuna. We look forward to the mission on this island with very favourable hopes.

ANIWA.

When Mr. and Mrs. Paton settled on Aniwa a movement highly favourable to Christianity had commenced, their settlement, therefore, was very opportune, and they have carried forward the movement to a highly satisfactory issue. Nearly the whole population profess Christianity, and the spirit of the mission continues encouraging; the mission premises and the church excite the admiration of all who visit the island.