

nearly 700 primers and 500 catechisms had been circulated. It may strike you there was some prodigality in that. But when one comes saying he wishes a book and by promise guarantees to make a good use of it, it is not easy to refuse. A few days after their receipt, they were hung up to smoke, the owners not troubling more either them or the school-rooms. This was not unexpected. In March only about 150 persons were at all regular in their attendance, and by the middle of May but 125, which leaves a small dividend for each school.

CAUSES OF DECLINE.

The number and potency of the influences at work against Christianity vary according to circumstances and localities. Take as an illustration Unumpup: The "John Williams" last visit—took away a young man belonging to that place to Aneiteum, and who subsequently resided a year on Mare. He affirmed on his return that the people where he had been were dying, and zealously set himself to oppose the spread of the Word of God. Some from that tribe who attended both school and church immediately threw up both; and Joe who had been settled there four months was dismissed in March. I never got an audience of the chief (a youth under the influence of others) and of the people but a very few.

Take another instance. In January a young man was killed at Rampuniateri.—He had been trespassing upon a chief in a neighboring settlement. A breach of the seventh commandment is punishable with death, and it is one frequently inflicted.—At the time I had invited all the chiefs favorable to christianity, to a supper and entertainment with the magic lantern.—When they were present here, next morning after school one shot an arrow into Waki's side. He was carried into a house near by, and death not immediately ensuing, the brother of the one who shot him, and who had been in the *Dayspring* five months, went next day and cut his throat. Waki was one of the Bunkil party in 1861. It was in his heart to have told them, but he

dared not. Waki's father had killed the father of his murderers when they were little boys. This was the reason why he met with such a fate. He was not really killed to appease the vengeance of the injured chief, whose women had ran away from him. Thereupon followed the re-fortification of war caves at Raiko, and soon after at other places.

Again, after these things, a chief of this settlement incurred wrath, by keeping some boar's tusks which he should have given to another, and by some other informality, and it was generally resolved to destroy the two settlements. Different chiefs cautioned the teacher against putting up a church, which was in contemplation, as it would only be burnt. One night he was awakened by the enquiry, "Who is with you." On replying that he was alone, he was advised to remove as he would be killed. To this he said, that if any were disposed to do so they might, that they could only kill his body. Finally, nearly one half of the island was involved, and the agitation for two months was intolerable. The matter was settled by making a present of goods. But Riako was destroyed.

Take another stand point. The mission premises are on the point north of the river. The sandal-wood establishment is about four hundred yards farther up the stream. On the opposite side satan has kept a small outlying picket since 1839. Shortly after the settlement of teachers at Rowvilyow, one from this detachment proceeded thither and inflamed the people, or tried to, against christianity, and advised them to kill Umow. The cry about disease and death, took, of course. Others did similar work in a district south.

In February a boat came from Aneiteum. The captain was a gentleman mentioned by Admiral Erskine. It was reported of him that he asked the people on the other side of the island why they take missionary, and that he told them the people elsewhere who did so were dying, and that they should throw away their clothing. Now, I am not aware that the man ever said so; and our friendly natives here were charitable enough to believe that some of their own country-