

port progress at their station, the school is well attended and the church is filled with a decently dressed and attentive audience. The people show a growing interest in their missionary and in his work.

Perhaps quite so much cannot be said for Erakor and yet, all things considered, it is matter of thankfulness that the work there is so encouraging, the chief drawback being the absence of the men, at sea, some willingly and some by fraud and force. Shall Morrison's work be abandoned or shall his foundations be built upon? Shall his vineyard be given over to desolation, or shall another follow him and the old saying be verified again, "One soweth and another reapeth, and he that reapeth receiveth wages and gathereth fruit unto life eternal, that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together." Who shall take part in his work and share in his reward.

ANIWA.

On Aniwa the work prospers under the zealous labours of Rev. J. G. Paton. Within three years a very remarkable change has taken place on that isle. Heathen dances, horrible noises, beating of wives, the bearing of war clubs by painted naked savages have all but ceased. Schools are within fifteen minutes walk of every family and are well attended. From 40 to 50 attend the chief school, including the aged with their glasses or new eyes. About 180 attend church. Twelve adults and three children were recently baptized, and these twelve with six Aneiteum teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Paton and Mrs. McNair partook together of the Lord's Supper. What hath the Lord wrought?

FUTUNA.

On Futuna too, Mr. and Mrs. Copeland are meeting with encouragement. About 100 persons are friendly and attend church, and 30 are learning to read. They have five native teachers from Aneiteum in different districts. A good number of natives have ceased to take part in heathen ceremonies, who have not openly joined the Christian party. Here then is another island waiting for the law of Messiah, and a people about to stretch out their hands to the Lord.

FAVOURABLE INDICATIONS.

Among the striking events of the year which should be at least referred to, if not enlarged upon in this report and all favourable, we may name—

1. The completion of the *Dayspring* Insurance fund of Three thousand Pounds by the exertions of Rev. Mr. McDonold, of Emerald Hill, and Rev. J. Inglis who succeeded through the liberality of the Presbyterian Churches in New Zealand,

Otago and Southland, in raising £1000 *sc.*, thus making up the proposed amount in full. Should the *Dayspring* suffer shipwreck we have thus on hands the means of replacing her.

2. The carrying out by Mr. Gordon of his long desired visit to Espiritu Santo, to make known to the people of that large and populous island the way of salvation. Mr. Gordon was accompanied by Mr. Paton, was cordially welcomed, met one of his Santo youths, found the people living in better houses, with more neatness about their dwellings, with articles of pottery of their own manufacture, and showing a readiness to receive instructions. For further particulars we must wait for Mr. Gordon's communication to the P. C. of N. S. W.

3. The settling of Mr. and Mrs. Watt on Tanna, another step, we trust, in the onward march of our aggressive faith. Tanna has rejected the Gospel more than once, and persecuted the Lord's servants, but did these things ignorantly and in unbelief. The time to favour her we trust has come. Mr. and Mrs. Neilson have not only lived in peace, but have gained influence, and now Mr. Watt takes up the station from which our own Matheson was driven some years ago.

4. A check has been given to the traffic in natives which has of late years sprung up, and which has proved a great hindrance to the Mission cause. Lawless men have by fraud got natives on board their vessels and dispose of them as labourers at so much per head to proprietors of land in Queensland or in the Fijis. They are not actually slaves, but as they have no means of maintaining their rights, they are helplessly in the power of their purchasers. This infamous traffic from the first called forth the protest of all the missionaries. Geddie, Inglis, Gordon and Morrison have nobly done their part. During the past year, Dr. Steel, of Sydney, Mr. Neilson and Mr. McNair have been called to the front, and the Committee of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland have done good service. The Sydney public and press gallantly sustained Dr. Steel in his conflict with an unprincipled judge. The Edinburgh and London press have shown up the essential wickedness of the traffic. Mr. McNair and the Reformed Presbyterian Board have been the means of bringing the subject to the notice of the House of Commons and of the Government. Orders have been issued to British Commanders to abate the nuisance. Vessels have been seized and the captains put on trial for their lives. One captain was condemned to death, and his supercargo to seven years imprisonment with hard labour. A Government Commission has been appointed in New South Wales to inquire into the whole