

Bank's group; Captain Robinson, of the "Marion Rennie," died there also, of a spear wound received at Santo; and Captain Bradley, of the "Swallow," died in his vessel at sea, of arrow wounds received at Lepers' Island.

NGUNA.

Mr. and Mrs. Milne had been ill with fever and ague, but were recruiting at the time of our arrival. Much preparatory work has been done here, and the missionary will be able henceforth to give his undivided attention to his proper work. The natives around are friendly, but do not manifest much interest in divine things. We look forward in faith and hope to brighter days for this and other islands. There were three Rarotongan teachers on Nguna at the time of our arrival. Two of them had previously arranged to settle on the small island of Pele, not more than one mile distant. They expected to occupy two stations, on opposite sides of the island. I went with them to the first station, but the people would not receive us. They told us that a Queensland vessel had been there ten days before, the Captain of which had purchased their part of the island, and that no Christian was to settle on it. They liked Christianity, they said, but were told not to receive missionaries, as they seized the land wherever they went and left the people destitute. We could not remove their fears, though they seemed friendly; and we were obliged to leave without accomplishing our object. On the following day, I visited the opposite side of the island, hoping to settle a teacher there. Our visit happened at an unfavourable time. The chief who had promised to receive a teacher was making preparations for a great feast, and, according to custom, was sacred for the time, so that he could not see us. Nothing can be done for the small island at present.

During our visit to Nguna I investigated a story which, a few months ago, went the round of the Australian papers. The Rev. Mr. Milne was charged by a man named William Irving, mate of the "Jason," with instigating the natives to fire on him. To make the matter probable, it was confirmed by the solemnity of an oath. The whole statement, as far as Mr. Milne is concerned, is a pure fabrication. The first intimation that the missionary had of the grave charge against him was from Irving himself, four months after the event took place. It is true that two shots were fired at a boat in which Irving was, one by an enraged husband whose wife he was carrying off to ship for Queensland, and the other no doubt for some similar reason. It is doubtful if Irving would have fared better in Australia under similar circumstances. White men

can point to cases on these islands where missionaries have interfered to protect them, but there is certainly no instance on record in which their influence has been employed to injure them. The avidity with which Irving's falsehood has been circulated, and the undignified and scurrilous remarks made on it, with a view to damage a Christian mission, is by no means creditable to some of the Australian periodicals. It is reported that the Queensland Government have taken up the matter in Irving's defence, and that a man-of-war is to be sent to the islands. It is to be hoped that the zeal of the Government officials will not evaporate until they have given this matter the fullest investigation. It is high time that some check should be placed on the falsehoods of the Queensland press against Christian missionaries.

Since the above was written, we have received painful tidings from the island of Nguna. A schooner called the "Fanny," was captured, and five men were killed. Mr. Milne was absent at the time attending a missionary meeting, but there were three Rarotongan teachers at the station. The "Fanny," had brought home some natives from Fiji, intending to procure others. They failed, however, to bring back two women, one of them the favorite wife of a chief, who had been taken away against the consent of her husband. The tribe of the chief decided on revenge for that and other wrongs. They boarded the vessel, killed all except the captain and mate, who escaped to the cabin, and protected themselves there by weapons. The mate, however, was severely wounded, his chin being cut off. The natives in the meantime cut the cable of the vessel, which drifted on land. The captain and mate, under cover of night, left the vessel and went in search of the mission station, which they found at last. In the absence of the missionary, the teachers gave them a welcome reception, but were obliged to conceal them. The captain was hid for seven days, most of the time in Mr. Milne's cellar, and the mate was concealed for six days in the bush. At the end of that time, he became delirious and exposed himself to the natives, who shot him. On the seventh day, a vessel called at the place, and the teachers delivered the captain to those on board. The teachers saved him at the risk of their own lives; and had they not afterwards suffered so much in connection with this affair, the probability is that they would have been obliged to leave the island for safety. The person who rescued the captain was Mr. Thomas Thurston, formerly English Consul at the Fiji Islands, who has written a fair and impartial account of the tragedy, and appears to have done his duty in a humane and prudent manner. A few days after Mr. Thurs-