

plexion among them, some being very dark and others nearly as light as the Eastern islanders which would seem to indicate that they are a mixed race. I have not seen less ferocity of appearance among a savage people. The men wear but little covering, and the women are more degraded in appearance than I have seen them elsewhere. One day when on shore I met a number of them coming out of the bush carrying large loads of yams on their backs, and bundles of wood balanced on their heads. On these islands the custom is for men to attend to fishing, feasting and fighting, while the women do all the hard labor. It will be a happy event for the poor women, when the humanizing and exalting influences of the gospel are felt throughout this dark group of islands. The natives of this island appear to be more social in their habits than on other islands of the group, and live in neat villages. Mr Murray visited one about four miles from the place where we lay. He was surprised and delighted with what he saw, and says that it excels anything of the kind that he has seen in Eastern or Western Polynesia. The village was neatly laid out and there was a large enclosure in the centre of it, where public meetings are held, which was swept and very clean. The whole village he estimated to contain 800 or 900 inhabitants.

This island is the most northerly one of the group. Judging from what we saw and comparing it with other islands it is a moderate estimate of its population to say, that it contains 30,000 souls. There is scope here for eight or ten missionaries. Having now finished our work in the New Hebrides group, we lifted our anchor and shaped our course to the Loyalty Islands.

MARE.

Sept. 28th. Arrived at Mare. Our friends Messrs Creagh and Jones and their families were well. The island has for several months been involved in a civil war. It was painful to hear that one of the contending parties was christian. The heathen are still numerous on the island and form perhaps two thirds of the population. A portion of these had long given annoyance to the christian district and without provocation killed five men, some of them church members. They probably construed the aversion of the christian party to fight into cowardice. The latter finding that they were no longer safe resolved on war. They made an excursion into the district of their enemies and found them encamped on a large rock which they considered impregnable. An attack was made and the strong hold was soon taken. An indiscriminate slaughter ensued and men women and children who could not escape were killed. The loss of the christian party was 4 killed, that of the heathen is not known. Since then the heathen have been quiet, but there were rumors of war when we were there. O for the reign of the Prince of Peace on this island.

The work at the mission stations is in a progressing state. Our brethren are zealous and devoted missionaries. God has greatly blessed their labours. They are each assisted by a good band of native teachers and the light is spreading fast. The four gospels and the Acts are translated into the language of the island, and all printed except John, which is in the press. Many of the natives are able to read and write well. Two churches have been formed on the island, and religion appears to be in a lively state among them. These churches have already sent teachers to the heathen islands.

A part of the heathen who are friendly have expressed a wish to have a missionary. We thought it would have a good effect to visit their district and confer with them on the subject. Messrs Creagh and Jones joined us intending to go on with us to Lifu and Wea. We sailed round the island to the heathen district, but the wind blew hard and directly on shore, so that a boat could not be lowered. Finding that nothing could be done we stood off for Lifu. Our brethren, Messrs Creagh and Jones, will visit this place in their boat when the weather is fine.

LIFU.

Oct. 3. Arrived at Lifu in the evening. We anchored in the large bay at the north west end of the island. This bay is about 12 miles wide at the points which form it, and 12 miles deep. Mr McFarlane occupies a pleasant spot at the head of the bay, the other station where Mr Baker resides is at the south end of the island, more than 40 miles distant. Found both the mission families well.

The Loyalty Island brethren held their annual missionary meeting, and Mr Mur-