

natives manifested no wish for the Gospel in most places. One old chief, who has always been friendly, expressed his willingness to receive Christian teachers, if *Charley*, a white man who lives in his district, would consent. It matters little to us whether this man is willing or unwilling, for the work of evangelization is now fairly commenced on Tanna, and must go on until the Gospel penetrates every part of that dark island.

Our brethren during the voyage visited two cotton plantations on the west side of the island. The one belongs to Mr. Smith, a gentleman formerly of Melbourne, and the other to Mr. Lewin. These plantations were made by natives of Fata, under the direction of their owners. A short time before the visit of the missionaries Mr. Smith's natives deserted, for some unknown reason, and went over in a body to the neighbouring plantation. His crop of cotton, which was nearly ripe, would probably be lost for want of labour, and he was left defenseless among a savage people who have little regard for life and property. Our brethren did not consider his position a safe one, and this was his own opinion also. It was with much regret that they left him in circumstances somewhat perilous. A few days after their visit the only white man in his employ was killed by the natives. He was shot in the breast, and afterwards beaten with a club. His body was cut up and sent to different parts of the island. A portion came to the district in which Mr. Watt resides; but the chief declined to receive it, out of respect to the missionary. "The dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty."

ERROMANGA.

Mr. and Mrs. M'Nair have been alone during most of the season, their fellow labourer Mr. Gordon, having been absent on *Espirito Santo*. Our brother is a most earnest and indefatigable missionary, and his excellent wife exerts herself beyond her strength for the good of the degraded females around her. If their success were equal to their self-denying labours, their mission on this island would be a prosperous one. Though the work does not advance rapidly there will be a rich harvest in due time. "Those that sow in tears shall reap in joy."

The greatest event of the year has been the settlement of Mr. and Mrs. Milne on the island. Their thoughts were turned to Erromanga before they left home for the mission field; and after seeing most of the group, they have decided to make this island their home. They will remain with Mr. and Mrs. M'Nair during the rainy season, and after that is over commence a station for themselves, most probably on some part of

Cook's Bay, which is the most populous part of the island.

The influence of the mission on Erromanga is much restricted for want of native teachers. We have repeatedly appealed to our Aneiteumese on behalf of this island; but while they are ready to go to Tanna, Fotuna, and Aniwa, we have few volunteers for Erromanga. It is not a favourite field with our teachers, from the fact that there was no intercourse between the islands in the days of heathenism. The teachers who have been there, however, like the island and people; and we hope to be able to strengthen the hands of our brethren next year.

FATE.

Mr. and Mrs. Cosh continue to labour alone. The death of their esteemed fellow-labourer, the Rev. D. Morrison, who had gone to New Zealand for the benefit of his health, has been a trial to them and a serious loss to the mission. May God raise up one equally devoted to take his place. There is marked progress at Mr. Cosh's station. The Sabbath services are better attended than formerly, the desire for instruction increases, and there is a more general interest in divine things. The greatest drawback to the work here is the deportation of natives. Many of them go to New Caledonia, Queensland, and the Fijis; and those who return are usually worse men than when they left home. It is very discouraging to labour among a fluctuating population.

Mr. Cosh accompanied us on a visit to Havannah harbour, about 20 miles from his own station. This harbour lies at the north end of the island, and is the largest and one of the best in the group. It is formed by two small islands so situated as to form in connection with the main land a completely land-locked and safe harbour. There are three entrances to the harbour, two of which will admit ships of the largest size, the other is a mere boat passage. We have an Aneiteum teacher settled at *Imangalyu*, on the main land, just outside the principle entrance. His name is Yalith, and he is one of our most energetic teachers. The population on the main land at the harbour is small, and most of the natives live on the small islands, probably because they are more healthy, and cross the harbour daily in their canoes to work at their plantations. The village where our teacher lives, though small, has political connections which give it some importance. *Taralyn*, the young chief of the place, is one of the most influential chiefs about the harbour. It is important to have the friendship of such a man. He is kind to the teacher and attends worship regularly. He has already renounced the worst customs