

in the South Seas, and God has owned their humble instrumentality. When we have seen the changes effected through their means on Fate and Savage Island, at the very time that the missions on Tanna and Erromanga conducted by white missionaries have been broken up, we may well say, that "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise, and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world and things which are despised hath God chosen, yea and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are."

While, however, there is so much that is encouraging in the prospects of our missionaries, we must yet remember that they are but at the commencement of their labours, and the good work is but begun. The greater part of the inhabitants of both islands are yet in the grossest heathenism. Only a small light is kindled on one corner of each island, and even there, as to the few that have come to the light, it may be almost said, that the light that is in them is as darkness. And poor Tanna is yet covered with a darkness that may be felt. What reason have we then for earnest prayer that God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, would shine into the hearts of the benighted people of these islands, and that over them all there may be reason for the joyful exclamation, "the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. Upon the land of my people shall come up thorns and briars—*until the Spirit be poured upon us from on high.* and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest."

One matter however in these letters is extremely painful and excites gloomy forebodings. We allude to the proceedings at Lifu. Something of the kind has been feared for some time, but few were prepared for measures so high handed as those recorded. We cannot for a moment doubt that priestly influence is at the back of these proceedings. Romish priests have followed Protestant missionaries in every part of the South Seas, and they have gone hand in hand with the power of the French Government. And unless divine Providence in

mercy prevent the success of their schemes, we doubt not that the scenes of Tahiti will be re-enacted in the New Hebrides. It becomes the church to be earnest in prayer to Him by whom kings reign and who has the hearts of all men in his hands that He may be pleased to avert from our mission so terrible a calamity.

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### THE ISLAND OF FATE.

As another island of the New Hebrides has now been occupied by a missionary of our church, it may be interesting to our readers to afford them some information regarding the inhabitants, and the past efforts made for their evangelization. We therefore proceed to lay before our readers the principal facts known to us on these subjects, condensed principally from Mr. Murray's work on Missions in Western Polynesia.

The island of Fate was first discovered by Captain Cook, who gave it the name of Sandwich island, after the Earl of Sandwich, then first Lord of the Admiralty. It lies fifty four miles to the north of Erromanga, and was estimated by Captain Cook as seventy five miles in circumference. It is probably larger than any island that has yet been occupied by our missionaries. Near the shore the ground is low, but the interior is occupied by mountains some of them of considerable elevation, and by hills of various shapes and sizes. All have been delighted with its appearance. Capt. Cook says "The surface appeared very delightful, being agreeably diversified with woods and lawns!" Capt. Erskine who visited it in H. M. S. Havannah, in 1849, thus described it. "The usual belt of vegetation extended on all the sides for a few hundred feet above the level of the sea, a white sandy beach running along the shores. Above the first range, especially on the mainland which forms the South side of the harbour, the surrounding hills are of varied and most picturesque forms, being in general bare of trees, but covered with apparently rich pasture, in some places brown, as if burnt for purposes of cultivation. The rainbow tints caused by the setting sun gave a