

There are a few and only a few congregations in England so thriving and efficient as that of Regent Square. But we see the breaking light of a better day ; and I believe that in course of five years there will be in London alone ten or twelve congregations of the same noble stamp.

R. M.

London, May, 1862.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

MISSIONARY VOYAGE OF THE "JOHN WILLIAMS" AMONG THE NEW HEBRIDES AND LOYALTY ISLANDS.

The missionary barque "John Williams" arrived at Aneiteum on August 30th after an absence of one year and nine months, on her voyage to England. We were glad to see the Rev. A. Murray and Mrs Murray of the Samoan Mission on board, and also six Rarotongan teachers and their wives, who have come to aid in the work of God on these islands. As the Lon. Mis Society intend to extend their missions in Western Polynesia, Mr. Murray was appointed to come and explore new islands for this object, and locate native teachers on them. He came with a request, that I should accompany him in this important enterprise. I could not refuse as we had long pleaded and prayed on behalf of the dark and unvisited regions beyond us. As Mrs Johnston was not well, it was thought desirable that she should accompany us, in the hope that a voyage would improve her health. During the short stay of the vessel at Aneiteum we had a meeting of the natives of much interest. They were pleased to see Mr. Murray, as he was the first missionary who landed on this island; and he was no less pleased to see them in their present altered circumstances. Having made all arrangements for our voyage we sailed on September the 5th for Tana, and were off that island early on the following morning.

TANA.

Our first effort was to open communication with Mr. Matheson's station. We hoped to be able to lower a boat and visit our friends on shore. In this we failed as the trade winds were strong, and blowing directly on the land. We sailed within about a mile of the shore and were seen and recognized by the mission family. This seems a very unsuitable place for a mission station, especially when occupied by persons of feeble health.

After failing in our object to land, we sailed for Port Resolution, where we spent three pleasant days. We found Mr. Paton well and laboring with his usual energy. The friends of the mission are on the increase, and the work seems to advance in the right direction amidst some difficulties. The trials of the mission during the past year have been caused by the distress and mortality occasioned by the measles. The disease was taken to Port Resolution by the schooner "Hirondell," Capt. Rodd, who landed natives with the infection on them. Other traders of a similar stamp followed, and told the natives that the missionaries made the sickness. It is no wonder that a dark hearted and superstitious people were enraged against them. Had there not been a considerable feeling in favor of christianity, it is more than probable that some disaster would have befallen the mission, or that those connected with it would have been compelled to leave the island.

Mr. Paton has suffered some annoyance from the natives lately in stealing. It appeared however that they have been driven to this from necessity. Food is very scarce, and there is much distress on the island in consequence. The plantations were neglected during the sickness, and the hurricanes which followed destroyed much of the remaining food. When the natives were questioned about the stealing they readily confessed, but declared that they did so, not from anger against the missionary, but from necessity ; and that they did not steal from him only, but from each other. The food has been so scarce indeed that the seed is