

in four fathoms of water; a few more feet and we would have struck. There was a prayer meeting held on board about daylight. The scene was very solemn and affecting. God mercifully heard our prayers and changed the storm into a calm. All was well and we left Lifu that afternoon. I trust we all felt thankful, in some degree for our preservation. Having left Mare Wednesday evening, we saw Fate on Friday morning and skirted its shores till about noon when we anchored in Erakor Bay.

#### VISIT TO FATE.

There were three teachers placed on Fate some time ago—two Rarotongan and one Aneiteumese. One of the Rarotongan teachers died a few months ago, the other we found very sick—their wives were both well—and the Aneiteumese also in good health. As soon as we went on shore we had to shake hands with a number who were waiting on the beach. I was seized by the hand and led to the teacher's house. We found it a nice clean building of three rooms, made with reeds, the floor covered with mats, a long seat on one side of the middle room covered with a mat where we were invited to take our seats, some fresh cocoa-nuts were then brought in and one given to each for a drink. Bananas were next passed round. After refreshing ourselves thus, we went out and took a walk to look at the island. Fate is a most magnificent island—low land near the shore and mountains in the distance,—range upon range—forming beautiful scenery. The vegetation is the most dense and luxuriant I have yet seen. Large banyan trees, creepers covered with beautiful flowers hanging in festoons from the branches, tall ferns, beautifully variegated leaves, &c.

After our return, we entered the church and had service. I wish you could have been there. Perhaps there were 70 or so present. Many were dressed decently and behaved with great decorum. They sang a hymn to the tune of "Watchman tell us of the night." It was truly affecting to hear those poor people who have never had a missionary among them, singing God's praise on a lonely island of the sea. I do not suppose there was one of our party who could refrain from tears. Mr. Ella gave

them a short address through their chief, Pomare, who has been in Samoa, and understands that language.

After service, they gathered around us, and presented us each with three or four nuts. They also presented us with a pig hot from the oven, and plenty of taro, yams, &c., all of which were brought to the ship. We left Erakor and proceeded in a boat to Pango, some five or six miles, where the Aneiteum teacher is laboring. We were received by a large crowd of people on the shore. Here they wore very little clothing, and looked very heathenish.

We found the teacher's house and the church very unpretending buildings, but very comfortable and neat. We went into the teacher's house; most all had to sit on the floor or mat. Palm leaves were then spread on the floor, taro and a pig placed upon them. Mr. Inglis did the honours of the table and carved with his jackknife. Mr. Morrison acted as waiter. Those who had penknives used them and the rest made the best use of their fingers. With the juice of the cocoanut to drink and bananas for dessert, we made a good dinner. There was a short service held in the church, there were only six men and nine women in attendance the rest remained outside. Men and women dress alike only the women wear a long piece of matting hanging down behind as an ornament. We left Pango that evening and had a rough passage back. The Captain bought a good many yams and taro from the natives paying them with cotton which will help to clothe them. The next day was Sabbath. It was so rough that there was some difficulty in ladies getting in and out of the boat, so that I had not the pleasure of going on shore. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed and addresses given in five languages, Fatese, Aneiteumese, Samoan, Rarotongan and English.—There were 150, or so of the Fate people present, nearly all dressed quite decently. There are 60 church members and 15 seeking admission. The missionaries were very much pleased and encouraged, with the state of matters. They went on shore again on Monday and selected a spot for building and after promising them a missionary shortly and requesting them to build a house for him, they left Erakor with thankful hearts. I was much pleased with the natives. I think them rather superior to the Aneiteumese. We then made for Erromanga but it took us a whole week to get there.