

about, indicated a very large population. We saw several men and their wives walking hand-in-hand most affectionately. Before leaving, Captain Fraser and I walked along the shore nearly two miles, and village after village, close to each other, followed as far as we went, and all densely inhabited, and the people industriously employed in some way. They seem to be a very interesting people, and our dear brother now occupies the most promising station that has been opened since I entered this mission. Had we six missionaries for Santo, the whole lee side of this beautiful island might be occupied at once; but placing and leaving a single man, and he in a state of weakened health by fever, at a distance of about 400 miles from Aneityum, is very trying; yet the Master's grace is all-sufficient, and may it be abundantly enjoyed by him.

#### VOYAGE BACK.

We had a very rough and uncomfortable passage back to Fate, as it blew a heavy gale. Found the Coshes very weakly, but recovering from a severe illness. They came on board to go to New Zealand for medical advice for their eldest child and themselves. I spent a Sabbath with them, addressed their people (Mr. Cosh interpreting), and baptized their youngest son at the close of the service. The church was well filled, and a number outside; there might be 100 present, and all well dressed, especially the men, and very attentive. I was exceedingly gratified to see that the work had made such progress at this station. Our dear brother and sister have good cause to thank God and take courage in their work. The work also prospers on Mr. Morrison's station, but he had to leave again on account of his health, and he returns by the *Dayspring* to New Zealand with his wife and child.

#### SLAVE TRADE.

Besides the *Latona* seen at Santo, as we entered Fille harbour, Fate, coming south, a second vessel passed us, and next morning a third passed; and as we left, the fourth, the *Donald McLean*, Captain McLeod, entered the harbour; a fifth called at Fotuna and took away one man; a sixth passed us near to Aneityum; a seventh, the *Maid of Riverton*, called at Erromanga; and the eighth vessel passed soon after; and as all these crossed our course within three weeks, might there not be many more we did not see? All these were going north to try and obtain natives for the so-called cheap labour; and with such a number of vessels constantly at such work, the result must be evident to all—the complete depopulation of our islands in a short time, and at present it is greatly hindering and upsetting our work. The sandal-wood trade seems done, but some of the vessels and many of

the old hands engaged in that trade are now busy taking cargo after cargo of Natives from the New Hebrides to the nearest market, where they are disposed of, if not by previous engagement, at so much a head to the highest offer, under engagements of which the natives generally understand nothing, as no one can speak to them in an understood tongue. It matters not that some respectable parties are engaged in this trade, and that fine names and representations are given to it by the involved and interested parties; it is undoubtedly a revival of the slave trade in all its horrors. To us it is truly painful to hear the complaints of the natives at almost every island at which we call, about white men deceiving, stealing, and taking away their friends, shooting at them, and in not a few cases taking their lives. No doubt when this trade began, many of the natives left voluntarily; but now kidnapping and compulsion seem to be the rule. And alas! after all that Britain and America, and other lands, have done to put down slavery, this horrible trade is now increasing on our New Hebrides islands, carrying the natives away to Queensland under the British flag, now protected by the laws of the Queensland Government; and they are being taken to New Caledonia, Tahiti, Fiji, and indeed wherever they will bring the highest price under the French, the American, the British and other flags. Can anti-slavery societies and Christian sympathies do nothing to help to stop this disgraceful trade and protect our poor defenceless natives? I do hope the false statements and gilded representations of the so-called respectable parties involved will no longer prevent the friends of humanity and of our mission from uniting all their influence and energies to try and protect both.

#### ERROMANGA.

Friday, 25th.—Anchored in Dillon's Bay, Erromanga, and found Mr. and Mrs. McNair enjoying good health, and meeting with much encouragement in their work. After their return from the annual meeting, the people living near them assembled and gave them a large present of yams and food, as a mark of satisfaction and gratitude, and since everything moves on nicely. Mr. McNair's school is well attended by about 40, and his wife's school by about 24 persons. Almost daily parties of heathen and chiefs are visiting them in a friendly manner. He had been warning a heathen chief and his people against the evil consequences of war, and urging them to give it up and embrace the gospel; and soon after, the chief's half brother and four of his men left him and the war-party, and came with their families and property to live at the mission-house, where I saw the houses they are