

number on the island is variously estimated from 15,000 to 30,000.

It was on the evening of Saturday, May 22, that the Spanish war steamer, *Balboa*, came to anchor in Clarence Cove. In addition to the newly-appointed Governor-General of the Spanish islands in the Gulf of Guinea, Don Carlos Chacon, and his suite, the vessel brought six Jesuits for the enlightenment of the colony. The Governor-General is also commander of the Spanish squadron, which at present is said to consist, or shortly will consist, of three other small steamers. His duties are, primarily, the dispersion of the mission, and the suppression of the slave-trade. Doubtless, the first of his duties will be more rigorously pursued than the latter, as subsequent events seems to prove.

By the arrangements of a wise and gracious Providence, Mr Saker unexpectedly arrived from Cameroons the day before the arrival of Don Carlos Chacon. The missionary brethren, Mr Saker and Mr Diboll, were thus able to advise together, and to afford all that counsel and support to the people which their difficult circumstance required. In the evening the people flocked to the house of God, and listened to an earnest exhortation from Mr Saker. Taking for his text the words of the Psalmist, "Be still, and know that I am God," he urged them not to be afraid, not to add to their difficulties by any unwise language or movements, to cleave to God, sit at his feet, and take shelter under his wing. Contentment and peace flowed in upon the gathered flock.

The evening was spent by the Governor-General in close consultation with the Acting Governor of the island, Mr Lynslager. The history of the eventful week following we will give in the form of a diary.

**LORD'S DAY, May 23**—At the morning service the chapel was crowded with the tearful inhabitants. They listened with the deepest attention to a sermon from 1 Cor. iii. 16, 17, addressed to them by Mr Saker. In the interval of worship Mr Lynslager sought an interview with Mr Saker. He urged strongly that nothing should be said that would excite the animosity of the Spaniards. He intimated the substance of his interview with Don Chacon the evening before. A new governor was come to change the laws, and with him six Jesuits to transform the colony into

a Catholic settlement. They were shocked at finding heretical missionaries on the island, and at the influence the missionaries enjoyed with the entire body of the people. They were determined to put down Protestant worship instantly, and to banish the missionaries. The decree of 1843 was shown to them by Mr Lynslager, at which they were enraged, and it was taken by the Governor-General on board his vessel for examination. Although it was intimated by Mr Lynslager that, if their purpose was carried out, the colony would be deserted by the people for the continent, they still persisted in saying that at all costs Protestant worship should be stopped.

Such were the prospects of the people when in the afternoon they again assembled for worship. With direct reference to the trials awaiting them, Mr Saker took for his text, Heb. xi. 27: "He forsook Egypt; he endured, as seeing Him who is invisible." The hour was holy and precious. The crowded assembly hung on the lips of the preacher, and then with intense emotion chanted together the forty-sixth Psalm. At the special prayer-meeting in the evening, the native brethren, Fuller and Johnson, took part in the service, the latter offering a prayer "the like of which is not often heard." The "building of the day" was completed by a brief and appropriate address from Isa. xxv. 4. The influence of this sacred season was seen in the calm and steadfast attitude of the people during the exciting events of the week.

**MONDAY, May 24**.—About nine o'clock Mr Saker called on the English Consul. It was now found that all the acts of Mr Lynslager since his assumption of the governorship of the island on the death of Captain Becroft, were illegal, and would not be recognized by the Spanish Government. A tornado stayed all further proceedings this day. But in the evening the people again assembled for prayer. The entire colony seemed to be there; for many thought it the last occasion on which freedom of worship would be allowed. Again Mr Saker addressed them. The text was Rev. iii. 7. "The Lord seemed to be in the midst of the people." Every heart was calmed by the thought that none can withstand the purposes of Jesus. The keys of dominion and of safety are in his hand.

**TUESDAY, May 25**.—A fine day; but the Spaniards made no movement. The