

him with a number of natives to assist in building the house, and to remain with him for a time. Messrs. Inglis and McFarlane were on board also, on their way to the Loyalty Islands. We arrived at Port Resolution on a Sabbath morning, but had worship on board, and did not go ashore until the afternoon. At the very spot where we landed the first thing that met our eye was a large conical shell from the *Curacoa's* guns standing in an upright position on the sand. There were a few natives on the shore, and one of them, an old man, spoke to us in a very angry strain, saying that we had come to settle a missionary, but they had received a missionary already who had brought a man-of-war to kill them and destroy their property, and they would receive no more missionaries. We inquired for Nauka, but were told that he was not at home, and did not wish to see us. We walked inland a short distance to the chief's residence, but could get no tidings of him there, though we afterwards learned that he was concealed in one of his houses. In passing over the premises we saw where a large cannon ball, from one of the *Curacoa's* guns, had passed through the two sides of a house, and which, to all appearances, has been deserted since that time. We next went to the teacher's house to attend the native service. There were six natives present, consisting of Nowar and his family, and we were told that these were the only persons who attended Sabbath day meetings. On the following morning some of Mr. Neilson's things were sent on shore, but our natives soon came off to say that the Tannese would not allow them to be landed. I immediately sent a messenger to say that we would go on shore after breakfast, and wished Nauka and the people to meet us, and talk over the subject of Mr. Neilson's settlement, and assured them that nothing would be done contrary to their wishes. We landed at the appointed time, our whole party consisting of Messrs. Inglis, McFarlane, Neilson and myself. The natives were assembled on the shore to receive us, but the chief was not there. We sat down on the spot where we landed, and held our meeting in the open air. I requested that the chief should be sent for, but Yaurien, his public speaker, said that he was there to represent him, and had full power to act in his name. I then stated, through Mintivan, our interpreter, the object of our visit, that we had come to settle a missionary among them with the full concurrence of their chief, and expressed my surprise at their unfriendly conduct towards us. The most of the natives were unarmed and civil, but there were two or three fierce looking strangers, who had guns loaded and capped, with them. Our meeting commenced in a friendly spirit

considering our peculiar circumstances.—Several of the natives spoke and told us their reasons for declining to receive a missionary,—some wished to retain their old customs, and live and die as their forefathers had done; others were afraid of christianity, lest they should take sick and die; but the prominent objection was the *Curacoa's* hostile visit. They repeatedly asked the question what they had done to merit the severe punishment inflicted on them by the man-of-war—a question I could not answer, even had I been inclined to speak on this painful subject. One savage looking man, when speaking about the affair, worked himself up into a complete rage, and snatching up his gun left our meeting abruptly. I asked the interpreter what he said, but his answer was, "I do not like to tell you, for his words are too bad to be mentioned to you." We found out afterwards that he had said, we were now in their power, and urged his countrymen to kill us, and thus revenge the *Curacoa's* doings. The man, after leaving us, went along the shore a short distance, then turned off into the bush, and returned creeping along the ground until he came behind the place where we were met. He now levelled his gun to shoot some of our number, but we were so intermingled with the natives that he could not fire on us without endangering some of them. He altered his position several times, but there were always natives in the way; and had it not been for this providential circumstance he might have carried out his murderous intentions. We were unconscious of danger until our meeting was over. How much do we owe to the providential care of God who numbers the very hairs of our head. I believe that the design on our lives was not premeditated, and was the result of momentary impulse. The natives at large had evidently no hostile intentions against us. After deliberation we deemed it inexpedient for Mr. Neilson to remain on Tana, and advised him to turn his thoughts to Fate for the present. We left some Aneiteum natives on Tana, hoping that their intercourse with the people there would tend to diminish their prejudices against missionaries, but they have returned home and say that nothing can be done at present. It is now nearly twenty years since I first visited Tana, and the prospects were never more gloomy than they are at the present time, for most of our old friends have died, and others have not risen up to take their place. Let us pray that God's time to favour that island may soon arrive.

VISIT TO LOYALTY ISLANDS.

The closing of Tana led me unexpectedly to visit the Loyalty Islands. We touched at Mare, Lifu and Wea, and attended the