

dral in its way, at which the natives work a week out of every month. They commenced it four years ago, and expect to finish it in the course of one or two years more. They have also a very comfortable house themselves, and a fine schoolroom, also the finest flock of goats I have ever seen, and several cows, plenty milk, butter, pigs, fowls &c.

The natives of Mare are a fine race, far superior to those of the New Hebrides.— There are perhaps 7000 of a population, and the greater part are christian. There are a number of Samoan and Rarotongan teachers labouring on the island, and two missionaries. The week before our arrival, a French steamer of war called. You are aware the French claim the Loyalty Group, and the authorities, stirred up and incited by the priests are doing all in their power to stop the progress of missionary work. They forbade the missionaries to keep schools, or in any way to instruct the natives without a license from the French authorities in New Caledonia, which would not be given until they were able to teach French. They also forbade the teachers to instruct the natives in any way, and ordered them to quit the island as soon as possible. We took tea with Mrs. Jones. Next day we arrived at Mr Creagh's station. Went on shore and spent two hours or so. Here we found the work also in a very flourishing condition, and hundreds crowded around us to shake hands. We visited Mr. Matheson's grave. It is just beside the chapel, with a stone wall around it. Mr. and Mrs. Creagh came on board and accompanied us to Lifu with the intention of holding a missionary meeting there.

LIFU.

When we came into Lifu harbour, we found the French steamer before us, and we at once received an order to have no communication with the shore until we received permission. The two missionaries on Lifu were not permitted to see us. The ladies were to go on shore and the Captain. A request for an interview with the commander, signed by all the seven ministers on board, was refused.

The French demanded a certain number

of youths to be sent to New Caledonia to be educated. The natives refused and fled into the interior. The French immediately plundered their houses. On the next morning they entered the church, where there were a few Samoan and Rarotongan teachers at prayer meeting, and took them prisoners, wounding some with their bayonets.— They then proceeded to burn the native houses. Five natives were killed and two Frenchmen, in a short engagement. The natives then fled, but as they were proceeding inland, they met a detachment of French soldiers when a slight skirmish ensued in which three more natives were killed. In a few days the chiefs submitted and peace was proclaimed. The missionaries were treated very harshly, not allowed to leave their own premises. All instructing of the natives is forbidden to the missionaries, and the natives are not even allowed to pray aloud.

Mr. Ella was on board with his family on their way to Uea another of the Loyalty group. He was forbidden to land on any of the group without a permit from the authorities at Port au France, in New Caledonia. The *Dayspring* is not insured for that port so we could only bring him back to Aneiteum where he intends remaining a few months to see what can be done for Uea.— There are 1500 natives professed christians on the island who have been waiting some years for a missionary.

A STORM.

It made us all feel very sad to leave the Loyalty group in such a condition. They are fine healthy islands and the natives are superior to any of the New Hebrides group. We returned to Mare with its missionaries, but before leaving Lifu we were in great danger of losing the *Dayspring*. On Thursday the 5th July about four o'clock in the morning it blew a gale, or perhaps a hurricane. I never saw such vivid lightning.— Our state room seemed to be lighted up by it for an hour or so. The thunder pealed and the rain poured, which with the noise of the wind and the waves seemed truly terrific. Our vessel was driven towards the rocks, our anchors dragged, and our crew thought the ship in great danger. We were