

"Decree of the Governor of New Caledonia, declaring the Island of Lifou (one of the Loyalty Isles) to be in a state of siege.

"On board the war steamer Coetlogon, at the anchorage of Hiacho (Lifou Island) on the 24th of June, 1864.

"We, Governor of New Caledonia and its dependencies,—

"Considering that, under cover of the Protestant religion, strangers have sought to denationalise the population of the Loyalty Islands, and have induced some of the chiefs to assume powers which belong to the Governor alone :—

Considering, also, that the natives of the village of Chepenche (of the tribe of Houet) and those of many parts of Leussis, misunderstanding their duty towards the colonial authority, have fomented disorder and revolt amongst the other populations of the island of Lifou :—

"And considering that, since our arrival at Hiacho, and in spite of the notices and summonses which we have addressed to the refractory chiefs, those parties refrain from yielding obedience to our orders, and so persist in their rebellion :—

"Because it is important to give to the military authority all the action necessary to put as speedily a conclusion as possible to the present state of affairs :—

"We have decreed and do now decree,—

"(Article I.) The Island of Lifou, (one of the Loyalty Islands) is declared to be in a state of siege.

"The military authority is clothed (to the exclusion of the civil authority) with all the powers required for the maintenance of order and of police.

"(Article II.) This decree shall be registered, and published wheresoever necessary and desirable.

(Signed) "GUILLAIN."

Then follows the Government Order respecting the military occupation of the island of Lifou.

I hope the French will be content with the Loyalty Islands. There are rumours that they claim the New Hebrides, and it may not be long ere the French flag is to be set up on Aneiteum. In such a case they might succeed so far as Government is concerned. But woe to that day when Aneiteum or any of the New Hebrides Group should come under French authority! May it never be in our time.

I have just heard from Mr. Gordon. He is quite well and studying the language daily. So am I, but it is not so easy as some would imagine to speak a barbarous tongue.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM McCULLAGH.

Rev. J. Bayne, S. F. M. &c.

## Letter from Rev- Donald Morrison.

VISIT TO FATE—INTERESTING SCENES THERE—VISIT TO ERROMANGA—ENCOURAGING PROSPECTS THERE—VISIT TO ANIWA—TO FOTUNA.

ANEITEUM, July 28th., 1864.

Rev. and Dear Sir,

As I understood you had been kept posted up in our movements, by Mr. McCullagh, I have delayed writing to you hitherto. But matters are now in such a state that I can justly delay no longer.

We have returned from our visiting voyage, this day week, having been out twenty four days. In that time we visited Mare and Lifu in the Loyalty Group. Having brought back from Lifu to Mare, Messrs Creagh and Jones, we sailed for Fate. We came to the Loyalty Islands on Wednesday 29th June, and left on the evening of Wednesday, July 6th, on the eighth, we made Fate. It was the middle of the afternoon before we dropped anchor in Erakor Bay. We went ashore immediately, and was heartily greeted by the natives who lined the beach to bid us welcome. I should mention that canoes came off to us before we anchored and directed us to the mission station. Ashore, we were conducted to the teachers' house, where the bottle soon passed its round, not however containing your alcohol, but the harmless and refreshing beverage of the young cocoanut.

We found that one of the Rarotongan teachers, Mankore, had died in May. The other Toma, we found in delicate health. The teacher's wives seem to get on very well, for health.

It being late that day before we landed, we left soon for the ship with a promise to visit it on the morrow, Saturday.

On the morrow we returned, and had more leisure to converse with the people.—They have a small place of worship, capable of accommodating about 150 persons. They are erecting the wall of a stone church, of about 40x18 feet inside. This wall is half up.

Having expressed a desire that the Lord's Supper should be administered among them on the occasion, arrangements were made accordingly. There were 15 candidates for baptism. It was deemed advisable however, to delay their admission as we had the prospect of settling a missionary amongst them soon.

On the Sabbath, the Lord's Supper was dispensed to 60 communicants. I, having had to preach for the crew did not witness the scene, nor enjoy the privileges of the day, but the brethren that were ashore came to us in the evening much refreshed in soul. They all felt it was good to be there. Mr. Inglis spoke to the people on the occasion, Thivthiv an Aneiteum teacher, interpreting;