

if either of them died, that very hour the teachers' lives should be sacrificed. They knew that the old man would keep his word, and gave themselves to prayer. Their prayers were answered, for the young men recovered. Jeiuc would rather have lost one of his sons, than he might have had an excuse for murdering the Christian teachers.

All his hatred, however, could not prevent the Word of God from having free course; the people became more eager for instruction, and some seemed to be laying it up in their hearts.

When the teachers had been four years in the island, the old chief Jeiuc died. One of them wrote to the missionaries, "Alas, alas! for the parent chief Jeiuc; our compassion towards him is very great. We see him every day; we talk to him about the Gospel of Jesus; we give him what foreign medicines we have, but he gets no better; Jeiuc must die!"

During his illness, the old man was in great distress of mind. He often said he "wished he had died ten years before."

And why wish that? Ah, the poor old chief must have felt that it would have been better for him never to have heard the Gospel than to have heard and rejected it.

Dear children think how many in this favoured Christian land will express a similar wish! How many in the bitterness of their soul will one day say, "Oh, that I had never heard of a Saviour!" "He that knew his Lord's will and did it not, shall be beaten with many stripes; but he that knew it, not and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes."

On his death bed, Jeiuc said to his sons, "I have been wrong in my opposition to the Word of Jehovah—attend you to my advice, and continue as you have begun; let the heathenism of our family die with me; be kind to the teachers, and never again let cannibalism be practised in this land."

After his death the whole of his tribe cast off their heathenism, and placed themselves under the instruction of the teachers, but now there was opposition from another quarter. A heathen tribe on the opposite side of the island annoyed the Christians, and tried to draw them into a war, but they were unsuccessful; God heard the prayers of his servants, and protected them from their enemies.

In 1852 the "Childrens Missionary Ship visited Maré. As those on board looked towards the shore they could not understand the change. It was Sabbath morning, and they