

who had been at Samoa, and had there seen the fruits of Christianity, and were eager to introduce it into their own land. The fact that they had brought back the chief produced quite an excitement. He had been absent so long beyond the time expected, that the people had concluded that he must be dead. Their joy on his arrival knew no bounds. They shouted, laughed, talked, and his immediate relatives greeted his arrival with a general burst of weeping. When the missionaries landed with him large numbers assembled to welcome him, and brought a present of yams, mats and a pig, the latter their most valuable commodity. The two other chiefs of the harbour visited the missionaries, also bringing presents, and the one brought his nephew and the other his son requesting that they might be taken to Samoa, and return accompanied with teachers. One teacher was stationed at Sema, where Tongalulu lived.

For the next year the work on the whole went on favourably, though not without discouragements. About two months after the vessel left, an epidemic broke out, and some having imbibed the notion, that it was owing to the visit of the *John Williams*, disaffection rose so high that there was even a talk of killing the teachers. An attack, though seemingly not of a very formidable character, was made upon them, in consequence of which they thought it prudent to withdraw for a season, till the storm might pass over. They accordingly removed to Sema, where they remained about a fortnight. During their absence the disease raged much more violently than before.—The people become alarmed, tracing this event to the anger of Jehovah, welcomed back the teachers, and gave the utmost heed to their instructions. Schools were crowded and a large number attended public worship.

But of the places around where teachers had been formerly stationed, particularly at Pango, a very different state of things prevailed. At this place the people had built a chapel, but on account of the sickness, became opposed to Christianity. The teachers persisted in visiting them, when they burned the chapel and returned to heathen-

ism. In March of the following year there was perpetrated here one of the most atrocious acts of cruelty, that even these dark islands have ever seen. A party of twenty-nine persons, six of whom were women, came from a village of Sema for trade. The Pango people without any apparent motive, except their cannibal propensities and their desire for property, treacherously fell upon them and murdered twenty-two. The remaining seven escaped by getting into a canoe and putting to sea.

Still Erakor remained a spot of light amid surrounding darkness. When the missionaries returned in October 1853, they found a most encouraging state of things there, which they thus describe:—

“As we spent the Sabbath at the island, we had a favourable opportunity of seeing for ourselves, and greatly were we cheered with what we did see. The little place of worship was filled to overflowing. The congregation must have numbered 250, and the order, quiet and heartiness, which characterized the service were very striking.—We could not but remark a great external change since last visit. The poor people are thirsting for instruction, and the only draw back to our satisfaction in observing the cheering indications of that which it was our privilege to witness was, that we had not a missionary to leave among them, and so little prospect of soon obtaining one.—Their desire for a missionary is very great, and the opening is a most eligible one—such a one as first missionaries have seldom had in any part of Polynesia.”

Alas, eleven years were to elapse without a missionary being settled among them, during which the island was the scene of events of the most painful nature.

From Erakor the missionaries proceeded to Havannah Harbour. They found that at Sema, where the teacher had been stationed on their last voyage there were from 150 to 200 professing themselves favourable to Christianity. This however being an unhealthy spot, they selected Lolopa, an island which forms the North West side of the harbour for the location of the teacher they had on board. Here the two chiefs reside who had so urgently requested teach-