

signal, and men, women and children sat down. A hymn was sung in the Rarotongan language which begins thus,

" Our home is in heaven,
Our home is not here ;"

Prayer was then offered up to God on behalf of the teachers who were now to be left among a dark and savage people. May God bless this new effort to introduce his gospel into one of the high places of heathenism. The names of the chiefs with whom the teachers were left are Malanga and Faario, and the place where they were landed, Paluale.

The island of Api according to Cook is between 50 and 60 miles in circumference. It is hilly, but not mountainous. The hills are covered with vegetation, and we could see the plantations of the natives on them in all directions. If we may judge from the quantities of yams which we saw food must be plenty. There is no anchorage for ships where we landed but vessels can anchor safely on the north west part of the island. The natives are milder in their appearance than those on the southern islands of the group. They wear little in the shape of covering, but their ornaments are numerous. We saw bracelets and armlets among them made of coral and shells, and the figure of a bird's head made of tortoise shell, which is fastened on to the forehead by a band around the head. The common weapons of warfare are the clubs and bows and arrows, the latter pointed with human bone and uniformly poisoned, which makes it a dangerous and a deadly weapon. During our visit I purchased a quantity of their weapons, which will be forwarded in due time. May God hasten the time when the Sun of Righteousness shall shine on this lovely but degraded isle.

ANDRYM.

September 19. After leaving Api we steered north for this island, distant about 26 miles. We were near the island at day break and were charmed with its appearance. The Bishop of New Zealand writing about it says, it is " one of the most beautiful and apparently most fertile and populous of all these lovely islands." There is a volcano on it in a state of constant action. It appears to be larger than the volcano on Tana, and not so active. The reflection of its liquid fires was visible in the heavens after night. A heavy column of smoke rises constantly out of the crater, which spreads over the high lands and conceals the mountain tops from view. Judging from the indications of labor we saw, we were led to conclude that the island is thickly inhabited by an industrious people.

The ship was hove to near the shore, and allowed to drift along the side of the of the island, in the hope that natives might come off to us. Some visitors came off as we passed along, but their language was strange to us and ours was strange to them. We could not make them understand our object, so we gave them presents to leave a good impression on their minds and prepare the way for a future visit. Finding it would not be expedient to settle teachers it was resolved to lower a boat, and endeavour if possible to persuade some natives to accompany us. We pulled into a small bay where we saw a number of natives on the shore. As we stopped at a little distance from the land some of them plunged into the sea and swam out to us. They soon became so numerous around us that we were obliged to pull out a little lest they should swamp the boat. A small and leaky canoe at last came off to us, being the only one we saw. Two natives came out of it into our boat and we sent ashore a Rarotongan and Aneiteum native to see if they could find a chief and bring him off to us. The natives who remained in the boat soon became uneasy and shewed a disposition to jump overboard. We tried to remove their fears by showing them that we had no weapons with us to injure them. Finding that we could not quiet them, we made signs for our party on shore to leave. When they reached the boat they told us that some of the natives on shore wished to kill them, but others interfered and would not allow them to be injured. We felt thankful to God that no ill had befallen them. As the natives of this island have manifested a more than usual distrust of strangers, it is probable that some outrage has been committed on them by white men.

We felt as if nothing could be done at present for this dark but lovely island, and so bid adieu to their inhospitable shores. We had not gone far when we saw the little canoe following us and the natives on board making signs to us to wait for them. When the canoe reached us two young men left her and came into our