

their work very arduous. But God has richly blessed their labours, although two-thirds of the natives are still mad after their heathen abominations.

From the latest reports we learn that about 2500 were attending the instructions of our Brethren, and that in two churches which have been formed there were 180 members. There are also about 400 candidates of a promising character. The work of translation is advancing, and the Gospels and other portions of the Scriptures have been printed in the Nengonese language. Already has this infant church attested its Missionary character by sending out Teachers from its midst to the Britannia Islands, and by subscriptions to the parent Society.

Lifu.—The Mission was not commenced until two years later than that on Mare, viz. in 1843. The work has been much of the same character, but of late years the apparent success has been much greater. Probably less than 1000 professed heathen remain on the whole island, the population of which is estimated at 10,000. Of course the great mass of the Native Converts can only be regarded as nominal Christians, but it is a subject of devout thankfulness that they are under Christian instruction. As yet they have only enjoyed the services of Samoan and Rarotongan Evangelists (six of the former, and three of the latter,) but in January, 1858, two Missionaries, Messrs McFarlane and Baker, were sent out by the Society to take charge of the work the Native Teachers have so well begun.

The gratifying intelligence has been just received of their safe arrival at their appointed sphere of labour. They were accompanied thither by Mr. Turner of Samoa, and by Mr. Jones of Mare, the latter of whom, in a letter dated 10th November ult., gives the following particulars:—

“There was no hindrance whatever to the landing and settling of the Brethren Messrs. McFarlane and Baker on Lifu. It is a happy thing for the poor natives to have the Missionaries they have so long looked for now really settled among them. They can go to them in all their difficulties, especially when threatened by the Priests. Mr. Baker is settled at the oldest station, and Mr. McFarlane in the large Bay. The people at both stations expressed great delight at their arrival, and assembled in great numbers to bid them welcome.”

Mr. Baker also, in a note dated from his station, 29th October, gives some additional details:—

“I am happy to say we have reached Lifu, and by God’s blessing are in the enjoyment of health. The Chief, with hundreds of his people, assembled on the beach to welcome us, and gave us a kind reception. We have a very comfortable house, and everything looks far more cheering than we could have expected. I hope the Chief is a Christian, or at least that he has some knowledge of the Saviour. If he is not a partaker of Divine grace, he is indeed a very interesting young man. There is also a good Chapel, and I should think some eight hundred people were present at the service in the afternoon.

BRITANNIA ISLANDS.

This small Group has been occupied by Rarotongan and Mare teachers since 1837 and already there are tokens of the Divine blessing, but no statistics can be given. Chapels are being built, and candidates for baptism are reported, but we must wait for further information. Catholic priests are also on the principal island, who state that they have been sent by the Governor of New Caledonia. The natives do not at present seem disposed to listen to them; but there is reason to fear that this small group will also be claimed as an appendage to the so called Protectorate which has been established in New Caledonia.—W. HARBUTT