

thing else has led to the suspension of these missions. We must have our helpers in Christ Jesus from among the native christians, as well as Paul and the other apostles, who did not fail to acknowledge their debt of obligation to them. It is something worse than unwise to slight an instrumentality which God has so much honored, in diffusing Gospel truth in these isles, and which he will continue to bless. The truth is that we are in a measure helpless without native teachers. The confidence with which they are received, their knowledge of native ideas and customs, their simple habits and few wants, make them invaluable as pioneers and assistants to missionaries. Here are two prostrate missions before us, and nothing can or will be done to resume them, until these humble and devoted men go before and lead the way. The history of missions on these islands without their valuable aid will be a history of failures and disasters. The missionary who cannot work with native teachers will do but little good, and the sooner he is recalled the better for his own sake and the sake of the cause. I think I may say that there is now in this mission unanimity of sentiment on the subject of native agency, and I trust and pray to God that it may ever continue. We hope during the present season to add to the number of our teachers on the neighbouring islands. A large reinforcement is expected from Eastern Polynesia by the "John Williams," and this island will furnish a few also. As the support of all the native teachers on the New Hebrides now devolves on us and our friends in Scotland, we are asking help from the neighbouring Colonies for this object. A sufficient sum has been collected in New Zealand and Australia to purchase their supplies for the present year. The money has been laid out in Sydney by Mr Murray, who has sent us such an assortment of clothing as will enable us to give them a better supply than they have hitherto been accustomed to receive. In addition to the clothing and barker which is given, we intend to add some sugar and tea and rice, to be used in sickness, also quinine and other medicines. I ask for our native teachers an interest in your sympathies and prayers. They are our fellow labourers in the cause of Christ, and are exposed to dangers and privations even greater than ours. May God increase their number, and give them and us more and more fitness for his work.

FAITH AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

I think we have no reason to be discouraged in our mission. The field to which God has directed us is no doubt an arduous, but it is a hopeful one. The gospel has triumphed over heathenism on Aneiteum, Mare and Lifu, and these islands were quite as unpromising a few years ago, as those which are still in darkness. The conflict on the several islands is likely to be fierce, but not of long continuance. It is a fact that ought to be known to the churches engaged in the New Hebrides mission, that martyr blood has been shed on every island of this group where the gospel has been introduced.* The numbers who have fallen are as follows: on Vate, three Rarotongan teachers, two Rarotongan women and one child; on Futuna, two Samoan teachers, two Samcan women and one girl; on Tana, on Samoan teacher and one from Aneiteum; on Niua, one Aneiteum teacher; on Aneiteum two native christians; and it is a remarkable circumstance that on Erromangi, where so much missionary blood has been shed, neither teachers nor natives have fallen in the cause of Christ. But this state of things ought not to inspire dismay or surprise. It is only what our Saviour foretold, and taught us to expect, when he said, "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name sake." There is every probability however, that dangers will diminish as the work extends to these islands. If we get the vessel we expect, we will be in more favorable circumstances than we have ever been, for carrying on the mission with prospects of safety and success.

CALL FOR MORE MISSIONARIES.

There is much need for missionaries on these islands at present. We could settle them on Fate, Futuna and Niua at once if we had them; and I hope the mis-

* I ought to mention that teachers were settled on Apeo and Espirito Santo about eight months ago, but as they knew nothing of the language when they landed, it is doubtful if they have yet commenced to teach the people.