

finished; but the Flying-Fish, which was to have aided in performing them, had not yet been seen or heard from. This was no small disappointment, as it might compel me to bring the Vincennes into the harbour, and thus incur a serious delay.

Before I had decided upon this step, I learned that a chief of the name of Opotuno, whose capture had been considered so important by our government that a ship of war had been despatched for the express purpose, had again become troublesome, and was threatening vengeance upon all the whites who might fall in his power. I therefore determined to make an attempt to obtain possession of his person by stratagem. Lest, however, such an attempt should create disturbance in the island, or be productive of injury to the white residents, I determined, before putting my purpose into effect, to have an interview with the Rev. Mr. Williams, the principal missionary in these islands, both to consult as to the best mode of accomplishing this object, and to learn what effect it would be likely to have on the operations of the missionaries.* I accordingly set out for his residence at Fasetootai, about twenty miles to the westward of Apia, in the hope of seeing him. Mr. Cunningham, H. B. M. Vice-consul, was kind enough to accompany me.

We left the Peacock at sunset, and reached Mr. Williams's snug cottage about midnight. Nothing could be kinder than the welcome he gave us; and the pleasure he expressed at our visit soon made us feel at home. He gave us supper, and provided us with comfortable beds. Shortly after our arrival, another party was welcomed, consisting of three ladies and a gentleman of the mission, who were in like manner provided for, without apparent inconvenience.

Mr. Williams seemed to me exactly what a missionary ought to be, pious, cheerful, and meek, although resolute. His whole thoughts seemed to be directed to the welfare of those whom he had undertaken to enlighten. His views were pointed not only to the diffusion of the gospel, but also to the extension of the useful arts, and whatever could tend to elevate the condition and eradicate the vices of the natives.

After a long consultation, Mr. Williams came to the conclusion that there was no reason for fearing that the arrest of Opotuno would be the cause of any injury to the whites or missionaries. He said that Opotuno was a blood-thirsty fellow, and that it would be doing the islands a great service should he be removed; that there was not a

* Mr. Williams is the author of the well-known Polynesian Missionary Researches, and it will be our melancholy office hereafter, to speak of his falling a martyr in his efforts to propagate the gospel.