

lead them among this as yet uncontaminated people, who will then receive, coeval with their discovery, and prior to any contaminating influence, the truths of the gospel.

The plan adopted, of using native pioneers, seems to be one well calculated to succeed; and I am satisfied, from the view I have had of missionary operations, that it is the only one likely to give a foundation on which to raise any permanent superstructure.

The white missionaries have a vast many difficulties to contend with, and are very likely to be deceived in some respects, in consequence of their general want of knowledge of the world. These difficulties are principally the hypocrisy and deceit of the natives, who are adepts in the art, giving a false impression relative to their feelings and designs, particularly when they think their personal interest may be promoted by their dissimulation. This trait of character is not confined to individuals, but frequently extends to whole districts.

Influential natives, brought up as teachers, are well calculated for the duties of missionaries, and take pride in the performance of them, and being fully aware of the native character, understand well where to place their confidence. I have had occasion to speak of the enthusiastic manner in which they enter upon their duties.

I would not be understood as throwing any doubt over the expediency of the missionary operations in these islands, but my intention is to express my preference of the mode they are now adopting to spread the gospel into the other islands, a mode which I am well satisfied will be of infinite advantage in facilitating the desired effect, and at a much less cost, both of time and money.

No political change had taken place in the government. Malietoa and the Manono party still have the power in their hands, but reports were rife that the chief had been a backslider from his professions of Christianity, by attending some of the feasts of the devil's party. The consequence, as at his time of life may be readily imagined, was a fit of sickness, which has been considered as a judgment upon him, and caused his return with much contrition to his religious duties and observances. It is said, that during his illness there was much excitement among the high chiefs, in relation to the succession to his title, that of "Tupu," or sovereign; and some fears were entertained that an outbreak might occur, that would place the power in the hands of some of the restless spirits that are known to be averse to the missionaries. If, however, they have established themselves as firmly as appearances warrant one in believing, there cannot be much danger that their exertions will be retarded, much less put a stop to.

Among the visitors to the ships, was Mole, the second son of Malietoa,