

geon of H. M. S. "Cordelia," lying at present in the harbour, it was resolved, That Mr Matheson's application cannot be granted, as to do so in the present state of his health would be unkind to himself, and to Mrs. Matheson, and injurious to the mission."

To this resolution Mr. M. could not become reconciled. The flattering nature of his disease led him to indulge in too favourable views of his strength. His disease began to affect his spirits and temper. He became almost angry at any reference to his ill health, and for a time he became displeased at his brethren. After spending some time on Aneiteum, he in December removed to Erromanga, the air of which is considered very salubrious. He continued to recover strength, and in April following returned to his station on Tanna, though even then he was so imperfectly restored that his brethren could not concur in the propriety of this step.

The suspension of missionary operations at Mr. Matheson's station, had been productive of most injurious consequences. The natives have very strong prejudices against christianity, from the idea that it brings sickness and death. This was one reason why the missionaries were unwilling that Mr. Matheson should undertake a new station, while his health was feeble, and now not only was the work arrested, his former labours were entirely neutralized and strong prejudices excited or strengthened. The work had to be begun from the foundation, and to be begun under more unfavourable circumstances, than when he first landed. He however, entered upon his work with his accustomed energy, and for a time it almost appeared as if his health had been entirely restored.

Mrs. Paton had died shortly before Mr. Matheson first left Tanna, and shortly after Mr. Copeland was removed to Aneiteum to take Mr. Inglis's place, so that Mr. Paton and Mr. and Mrs. Matheson were at this time the only Europeans on the island. They were soon after joined by Mr. and Mrs. Johnston. Even before Mr. Matheson's return, hostile feelings had been excited among the natives against the mission, and these

feelings not only continued, but increased, so that the missionaries were not only subjected to many petty annoyances, but their lives were frequently in danger, till at length came that unprecedented series of calamities which led to the entire breaking up of the mission. First came the dreadful scourge of measles, by which the larger portion of the inhabitants were prostrated, and it was supposed that one third were laid in the grave. Then Mr. Johnston was called to close his labours by death. Then successive hurricanes devastated the islands, leaving the natives without food. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon were massacred on Erromanga, and the tidings produced great excitement among the poor Tannese already much exasperated against the missionaries. Finally Mr. Paton's premises were attacked, and he narrowly escaped with his life to Mr. Matheson's station. And soon they found that they were not safe there, and having received notice from the friendly chiefs, that they could no longer protect them, they at last reluctantly made up their mind to abandon the place, and after a series of perils, they providentially reached Aneiteum on the 8th February, 1862. A few of the natives of Tanna joined them and Mr. Matheson employed himself in instructing them, and translating the Scriptures into their language. But here a new trial awaited him. He had buried his only child on Tanna, and now his lovely wife was snatched from his side. Mrs. Matheson died on the 11th of March. His own health was much broken, but with that indomitable perseverance so characteristic of him, he clung to his work, while any strength remained, and long after most men would have felt it their duty to lay down their weapons. Last summer he went to Mare hoping for an improvement of his health by the change. But no permanent change for the better took place. Still, however, he persisted in his work. Death alone arrested his labours. Thus he died in harness. The later events of Mr. M's. missionary career have been so recently detailed that we feel it unnecessary to refer to them at length.

On Mr. Matheson's character we need not dwell. That he was a man of ardent piety