

present to see us safely over the crisis. Then we could sing,

"Thus far the Lord hath led us on,
Thus far his power prolongs our days."

We are not under any chief, even nominally. This state of matters is anomalous and regretted by our friendly chiefs; but it is unavoidable. Considerable difficulty was experienced in getting the possessions of the traders.

At last they sold the whole for £150, which was accordingly bought on behalf of the two churches in Nova Scotia and Scotland, whose missionaries are in the New Hebrides. It will be understood, that all the grounds previously owned by the late missionary, with the exception of two sites, are included in this purchase. I also bought a horse for £20; a cow for £8; and my boat has cost me £32.

On leaving the old mission premises, which I did from sheer necessity, I had my house taken down and stored away. I thought it better to do this than to leave it to be burnt or blown down. I did so in pure grief, and have scarcely enjoyed a day's health since. Having removed we could return no more, not even to worship on Sabbath, as it would have been unsafe to have left the premises even for that purpose and for so short a time. We used to assemble in the end of the dwelling house, once occupied as a store; and there, where whiskey and tobacco, guns and ammunition, vermilion and looking glasses, were vend- ed for years, the word of the great salvation was sounded forth. The room was small and uncomfortable; and the withering heat that fell from the iron roof immediately over-head was unbearable. Not less insufferable were the native satellites—clouds of blue, and black flies, which, while speaking one could not keep out of his mouth; and even when engaged in prayer you would be obliged to keep your hands a-going in close proximity with the lips, as though performing some mysterious incantations. That is what might be called preaching under difficulties and praying with embarrassment. Three weeks afterwards I became ill and was laid aside for four months. I think that during that time I must have gone nearly round the whole circle of fevers, I did not expect to recover and longed for a release. In this way my working months during the past year have not been much over seven. However it was considered we would do well if we could but barely live through the year. This we have done, and a little more; for we have lived through it safely, for "the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him."

DIFFICULTIES AND DANGERS.

The chief apprehensions of our young men arise from the practises of war. Wor-

risnangeri's brother was killed under the following circumstances:—A man who had been in the Institution for training natives in Samoa, shot him first with an arrow. A chief, of whom I entertained the best hopes at one time, next struck him with his hatchet, where upon he cried out, "O don't kill me." His heart relented, and he did not attempt a second blow; but a brother chief, and an adherent of christianity also, on seeing this, opened his forehead with his hatchet. In native estimation it takes three or more common men to atone for the death of one belonging to the patriarchal family of chiefs; and if these cannot be obtained by fair means they scruple not to resort to foul methods. Hence the death of a lad who had lived with me last year, but who had been ruined by a bad woman. Under guise of friendship he was betrayed away, killed and cooked. And thus one has occasion to grieve over the death of that unhappy youth. He was able to read in the Gospel.—Now the majority of the young men with me would answer for substitutes, as they are termed, in such a case. Consequently it is literally true that every man in this land is afraid of his own life. Joe himself let out a secret the other day. After his return home from Samoa, he, in company with his tribe, made war upon their foes and slew three of them. For these three they have not yet got payment in kind. Hence their desire to kill him and others, and unwillingness to attach themselves to the Mission. Thus you will perceive, by hook and by crook, in any way, and every way, the great enemy of souls manages to hold them in his toils. Our work is emphatically one of faith and hope, and that hope is remote still from mortal vision. "Who hath believed our report, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

A horrid thing was done in the last battle fought on the south side. A woman was killed, but as the enemy was near, the body could not be carried off. But they succeeded in cutting up her body, and one made off with an arm to which the shoulder and a part of the breast were attached.

Five lads and a young girl were taken away by the traders when they left. These I believe were willing to go; but I considered it a wrong done them. Six or seven lads we found remaining on the premises, and all ignorant of their letters, and of indolent habits. These were an element of weakness rather than of strength in our community. Led by the most forward among them, the would, contrary to our express regulations, join issue with Woristaki, fight for him by day, and return to the Mission grounds to rest at night. In this way it was impossible to avoid coming into collision with the opposite party. I