

day and the tide was out, but we were going along quite confidently, dreaming of no danger, and were now near the shore, when I looked back and saw a great rolling wave coming curling up behind us. I called upon the Aneityumese to put forth all their strength, which they did, but we were just a minute too late, for when we were about twenty yards from the beach it came rushing over the top of us! I immediately struck out for the land; the canoe and its outrigger parted company; the Aneityumese clung to the former and brought it ashore along with them, so we escaped safe with nothing worse than a soaking in salt water, except the loss of my umbrella, which I had in my hand at the time of the accident, and of which I remembered nothing until we had been a good while on land.

From the above narrative you will see the state in which things are here at present, and how much we stand in need of your sympathies and prayers.

Mrs. Neilson, myself, and the children are all well at present.

I am, Rev and dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

THOMAS NEILSON.

KWAMERA, TANNA,

26th February, 1875.

Dr. STEEL, Sydney.

My Dear Sir.—We have received two all mails by way of Noumea.

We had a hurricane on the 14th January, which blew down several houses, &c., and among others our grass church. A lime-house which belonged to the late Mr John Woodward was blown to pieces, having lately been in the centre of a whirlwind. Our natives are fighting, and we expect they will be driven away; but we do think will effect us.

We have been busy printing a book in course, a copy of which I enclose for Mr. Martin. You may open the wrapper and examine it if you feel inclined.

We are both well. With kindest regards to yourself and family, in which Mrs. W.

I remain yours sincerely,

W. WATT.

The wife of the Rev. P. Milne, of the American Mission at Nguna, writes as follows: "On the 3rd of October we sailed in the Harbinger to Mataso. The being light, we had a long passage of 18 hours, but we landed safely at our destination, and got everything comfortably settled by dark. The teachers and natives as usual, waiting on the beach to meet us, and to carry up our goods and baggage. We felt cheered next day when

assembled in the new church for worship, and found the attendance about as large as formerly, the house being full. We are hopeful of the duration and progress of the work amongst that people. Towards the close of the services Mr. Milne generally catechizes them on what he had been telling them in his address, which is a good way of fixing some truths in their minds, which otherwise would 'go in at one ear, and out at the other.' One Sabbath some of them had been more than usually inattentive, and consequently gave very stupid answers or none at all. At the end, Ta (the native teacher) made a very affecting appeal to them, one part of which I could not help being amused with. He said, 'My heart is very heavy to-day, when I think that I came here a young man (only three years ago!), and I am now getting old, my hair will soon be grey (it is as black as a raven yet), and I will soon die, and not one of you yet understand the word of the Lord.' We went, intending to stay only a few days at Mataso, and then going to Makuru for a week, but God willed it otherwise. We were storm-stayed for three weeks. Twice we packed up for going, the first time the night before the change of the weather, and again a week after, when it cleared up a bright afternoon, but the morning was as bad as ever. So we gave up all hope of getting away, and the first favourable day—October 22nd—returned to Nguna. The sea was much rougher than we had expected, but the Lord preserved us on the deep. We found all well. On the 26th of October we again got out the Harbinger, and sailed for Utanilagi, at the other end of the island. The chief there refused teachers when we had them to give, and also refused to sell any land for a mission-station (although they had sold to traders) until, three months ago, he was here, and promised to give us a piece of ground. At the time appointed we went, and found him true to his word. After drawing the boat up, Mr. Milne, with Andrew and Masogomabula, went away to the village, which is situated on the hill several miles from the sea. The chief showed them a piece of ground he was willing to give. He accompanied them back to the beach to receive payment for the ground. He was very well pleased with the goods we had brought, and so the transaction was quietly settled. While Mr. Milne was away inland, Iona and my Erromangan cook had roasted yams and boiled some rice; so, after having settled with the chief, on their return we had dinner under the shade of a tree. We gave the natives some rice, which they are very fond of, but the chief did not want any; he, however, took a biscuit with exclamations of delight. He squatted down beside