

marked interest and asked questions about the forgiveness of sin.

At another house where I saw also the father of the family they said I spoke the things of Jesus very plainly to them and they came to church in the afternoon and asked to have their three children, two of whom are attending school, baptised shortly.

At two o'clock we went into the school-house to prepare for service. A few children came into the Sabbath-school which is held first. Dr. Morton catechized them and we sang some native hymns. Slowly a few grown people gathered in; we felt discouraged and I said "It is of no use for both of us to remain, I will go and visit in the village;" just as I said this I cast a glance in the direction of the estate and saw approaching a procession of brown legs, large and small, interspersed with gay skirts and veils. The school-house began to fill; and still they came, we understood why when we saw our good friend Mr. Cumberbatch supported by the Catechist bringing up the rear. He had turned his labourers out to church, men, women, and children, all who were able to come. Soon there was not an empty seat, more benches had to be brought; there were about 140 present. We sang a hymn "There is not a moment's certainty in this world, therefore, remember God." Nelson gave some explanations and remarks with great fluency and appropriateness. Dr. Morton's address was on the passage beginning "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth;" it was listened to with marked attention.

After the service concluded I opened my roll and gave the same picture lessons as at the hospital. Some Mohammedans smiled maliciously at the irony of Elijah and the discomfort of the idol worshippers. I then gave a Christmas card, of those received from Canada, to each as they dispersed; they are particularly eager for them at this station, probably because they are mostly very poor and have almost nothing in their homes. It was now close upon five o'clock. We must lose no time in getting to the station, weary, but thankful that we had been permitted to speak to so many.

SARAH E. MORTON.

LETTER FROM REV. JOSEPH ANNAND.

MURDER ON SANTO.

On the morning of the 12th inst., the bushmen from the hills came down to Tangoa, and after throwing the two white men there off their guard by engaging to work with them for the day, they suddenly attacked them, shooting Mr. Sawers through the heart and then chopping him with their tomahawks. The rifle aimed at Malcolm, Sawers' companion, missed fire, after which they attempted to club him, but he managed to reach their camp and seizing his revolver frightened them away. He then ran for our

station as fast as he could lest he should be shot on the path. A native of Malekula working with the two white men was killed and his body carried to the hills for a cannibal feast. Taking a few of the Tangoans and our own lads I went at once to the scene of the tragedy to recover if possible the bodies and prevent plunder. The bushmen had all cleared out of sight before we arrived, some two hours after the fatal shots had been fired. We found the body of our friend Sawers on the spot where he fell, so we brought it to Tangoa for burial. During the day we made a second trip and so saved their goods from plunder. The Tangoans rallied round me well and acted nobly. Their anxiety for my safety cheered us and gave us evidence that we have gained a stronghold in their affections.

A very sad element in the affair was the fact that Mr. Sawers was married on the Monday evening previous to a young woman who came all the way from Scotland to meet him. She was with him only two days before he was killed. Both Mrs. Sawers and Mr. Malcolm are now with us. The latter will require to await the arrival of a man-of-war to give evidence.

Although the Tangoans have always told us that the bushmen were very bad and would kill all white men that they could, we did not fear them in the least. This has given a feeling of insecurity here not previously experienced. It will be a heavy blow to the advancement of civilization on Santo. Mr. Sawers was a man of considerable experience with natives, having been in charge of a plantation in Fiji for some years. He treated the natives well, and so far as we can learn, no cause exists for the murder beyond the hostility of the bushmen to all white men coming to the country.

Their retreats in the mountains are so numerous and so secure that it is very improbable that the men-of-war can reach them to punish them. If not punished for this the bushmen will be worse than ever towards settlers. By our last mail our hearts were saddened by the tidings of Mrs. Leggatt's sudden death on Malekula, and also by Mrs. Lawrie's insanity through illness and worry. These things have overshadowed us like a thunder cloud, but we trust that all will again be bright. The Lord is still with us and his work will advance.

I am glad to say that our health is very good—that the cough that troubled Mrs. A. for several months has entirely left her. Let not our friends be anxious about our safety for so far as we can judge our lives are perfectly safe in our Master's keeping. We earnestly ask the prayers of God's people on behalf of his work on Santo, that these degraded tribes may be speedily brought to the Saviour. With warmest greetings.

I am yours,

J. ANNAND.

TANGOA, SANTO, Sept. 30, 1891.