

To the Editor of the Presbyterian Witness.

THE TANNA EARTHQUAKES.

164 TOWER ROAD.

IN last week's *Witness*, in an article on Remarkable Earth Convulsions, you refer to those on Tanna, New Hebrides. Perhaps the particulars contained in the following extract from a letter of my sister's, may prove interesting to your readers:

PORT RESOLUTION, TANNA,

May 29th.

It was on January 10th that we had the first great earthquake. For several days previous we had felt a number of slight shocks, but on this morning at seven o'clock we experienced such a shock as we never knew of before. The plaster cracked and fell all about our house, and I expect that if the building had been made of stone, instead of being a strong weather-boarded dwelling, the damage would have been great. On the opposite side of the harbor a large portion of the cliff at the entrance was thrown forward into the sea, which caused such a commotion in the waves that they rose to the height of 40 feet and dashed over the land. The water came sweeping in around the Bay, carrying off boats, canoes and everything within twelve feet of the shore. On the other side for several miles the land was fearfully rent, and the sulphur is streaming up in all directions. The land also rose about 20 feet. On February 14th we had another severe earthquake, when the land again rose 12 feet, and some immense stones were thrown up at the entrance over which ships could once sail. Another earthquake since has raised the land a few more feet. The result is that the Bay is very much contracted both inside and at the mouth. The *Dryspring* did not come in here, and we do not expect to see her very often in the Bay after this. Besides these we had a number of slighter shocks, and indeed they have not yet ceased, although not so frequent as during the first two months of the year. It has been a trying time. The natives were as alarmed as we were, for they have no tradition of anything of this kind having occurred before. Indeed earthquakes al-

ways very slight here and it was supposed that the volcano acted as a kind of safety valve, but this year it certainly has made matters worse. I have now seen some wonders that I do not care to have repeated. I would not chose again to stand on my verandah and watch the land rising out of the sea. As yet I have not crossed over to see the changes wrought, I have been quite contented with witnessing them at a distance, but I hear that this new shore has a very strange appearance. To walk on it is like walking on the bottom of the sea. Mr. Neilson has brought over some very odd pieces of coral. They are quite curiosities, but are too large to send anywhere.

It is with deep feeling of gratitude that I think of the safety and comfort we have been kept in during all those disturbances of nature. Not a life has been lost. There used to be a village at the spot where the sea did most damage, but it had been left some time before. Had it been still inhabited, the people would have been all swept away. On the other side three villages were broken up, as the ground is too much cracked to make the place comfortable to live in. You can imagine what my sensations are now when an earthquake occurs! The slightest shake quite upsets me.

LIVING AND DYING FAITH.

From a Sermon.

My friends, I have shown you Christ, and made you to see the object of his mission. You all see what it was; and the object of Christ shows us what should be the object of the Christian. "The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord." What Christ lived for, we, who profess to have Christ in us, the hope of glory, must live for. The object, then, of the Christian's life, your object and mine, my brother and sister, is to save the lost. This object