

of Raratongans have been killed of a small band in Western Polynesia. Would there have been more of Europeans? I agree with those who think not.

G. N. GORDON.

TANNA, May 14th, 1860.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—

You will be pleased to learn that, in the good providence of God, we have again been permitted to return to our station upon Tanna. We left Erromanga on the morning of the 19th ult. and arrived at Port Resolution the following afternoon, not knowing anything respecting the movements of the *John Knox*, or in whose services she was to be employed this year. Instead of remaining any longer upon Erromanga, with the prospect of getting a passage in her to Tanna, Mr. Gordon and I, after considering what was best to be done under present circumstances, concluded that, as the rainy season was now past and as by the blessing of God my health has been in a great measure restored, and as duty to God, to our fellow-men and to ourselves required that we should be at our station without any further delay, the only way of accomplishing this end was to secure a passage in some trading vessel. We accordingly went down to Dillon's Bay and consulted with Captain Paddon, who engaged to land us at our station for (£15) fifteen pounds sterling. Upon our arrival at Port Resolution we were pleased to find our much esteemed and worthy brother, Mr. Paton, in the enjoyment of excellent health. During the past season he has had very many trials with which to contend from the hands of the natives. Several of the inland tribes have been at war with the harbor tribe among whom he is residing. The fighting has often been at his very door, and upon some occasions his life has been in imminent peril. At present the war is terminated—the harbor people seem to be friendly and say that they will not again go to war unless compelled to act in self-defence. Owing to the disturbed state of matters among those tribes nothing has as yet been done in the way of establishing schools or of collecting any of the natives for the purpose of receiving instruction. We remained with Mr. Paton ten days. On Sabbath I accompanied him inland to some of his preaching stations. In the morning he conducts worship at his own station, and then itinerates during the remainder of the day—preaching in any village or settlement in which he finds some two or three persons assembled. The first Sabbath morning there were 9 natives present at public worship at his own station—5 women and 4 men. The second Sabbath there were but 5 present—4 men and 1 woman.

On the 1st instant we came round to our own station (which is some 12 or 14 miles from Resolution Bay) accompanied by Mr. Paton and four or five of his natives, whom he had engaged the previous day as a boat's crew. Shortly after our arrival it was reported that the natives of Nakaruk (a village about half way between the two stations) had resolved to kill all the natives from Mr. Paton's station upon their return home. Upon hearing this report they besought Mr. Paton to leave after night, in order that they might get past that village unobserved by their enemies. He complied and had made all necessary arrangements for leaving at midnight, but when he came to collect his boat's crew we found that, owing to their having indulged too freely in the use of *kava* during the former part of the evening, they were utterly incapable of managing a boat. He therefore remained until the following morning, left after breakfast, and arrived home safely by mid-day.

As regards the work upon this side of the island prospects are at present very dark and discouraging—more so than for some years past. Several circumstances have combined to lead to this sad state. One great barrier in the way of the spread of the gospel here is the want of efficient teachers, persons of intelligence and piety, capable of instructing by their example as well as by their precept. When we speak of teachers being here you will naturally expect also to hear of schools having followed in their train, but such has not been the case upon Tanna. In October, 1854, two teachers were stationed at Anukaraka. Several others have since followed, and have been located at different villages. When we came here last year we were not a little surprised to find that not even one native had been taught one letter of the Alphabet. After being here two months we suc-