

christianizing of Erromanga. We do not say that we should rush heedlessly into the work, and therefore we think that the Board acted wisely in waiting for Mr. Geddie's report before taking decided action. We must too examine our past course that we may learn wisdom by our errors. We remarked in our last that one error had been committed, and to this we must now advert, not for the purpose of throwing blame upon any person, but with the view of learning our duty for the future. *That error was the occupation of Erromanga by a single missionary.* The commission of Christ, the example of his apostles, and the experience of modern Missions, alike teach that at least two missionaries should have been stationed there. Humanly speaking, had there been another missionary at the other side of the island, and he blessed with equal success, this catastrophe would not have happened. Had there been two on the island, how much greater the probability every way that their lives might have been saved, or at least that one might have escaped, and if so, then the labour of Mr. Gordon in acquiring the language would not have been lost, as it now is in a great measure. We know too that as our Lord saw meet to send forth the self-confident Peter, and the loving John in company, so there are still deficiencies in one servant that require to be supplemented by the excellencies of another.

Let us then count the cost, and be prepared to put forth all the energies that the exigencies of the work may require. But we cannot draw back. The simple question is, *shall Satan have Erromanga* in undisputed and undisturbed possession? Ye soldiers of the living God, can you hesitate to answer, "No. In the name of our God, for the love of his Son, and by the help of his Spirit, it shall not be." Surely you will not speak of retreat. No, you are committed to the enterprise, and cannot retreat without bringing dishonour on yourselves and your glorious Captain, and allowing Satan complete triumph. What though the soldiers of Emmanuel have been twice repulsed, as they have gone up to the assault upon the throne of the Prince of darkness, which seems established there? The good soldier in a good cause is by repulse only nerved to redoubled efforts. What though the great adversary has come forth in great wrath, and twice has quenched the invasion in the blood of the servants of the Lord, *the work of God must not be abandoned for such opposition.* And in its onward course *we cannot pass by Erromanga.* There it stands the very Malakhoff of Satan's power in Western Polynesia, and stopping the onward march of the army of the Redeemer in their progress toward the large and populous islands to the North. *It must be taken,* and its proud towers levelled with the dust.

And we have abundance of encouragement. The progress already made, the example of other islands, and especially the promise of Christ and the power of his Spirit, all encourage us to go forward with the prospect of final and glorious success. What though the rage of Satan is excited to the highest pitch. It is, we firmly believe, because he sees the approaching downfall of his power there. "The Devil is come down to you, having great wrath, *because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.*" Arduous then as may be the difficulties yet to be encountered, and fearful as may be the sacrifices yet required, ere Erromanga receive Christ's law, yet let us remember that all the greater will be the glory of success, and the brighter the honours with which its conquest will encircle the brow of the Redeemer.