

days, and if the natives will consent to receive a missionary, steps will be taken to re-commence the mission. After the repulse of last year it is hard to say what will be the result of this new effort to introduce the gospel into that dark island; let us pray God that it may be crowned with success. Mr. Neilson has some advantages in his favour which make him eligible as a missionary for Tana. He was not on the islands when the unhappy affair occurred, which has been the chief cause of our disappointments on Tana of late years. His knowledge of medicine has also strongly recommended him to the Tanese. He was successful, under God, in curing a chief who was very ill, and probably saved his life; and he now goes by the name of *Doctua*. So great is their faith in his skill that an application was made to him during his last visit to put in a new eye for an old man who had lost one of his eyes many years ago. Add to all this, Mr. Neilson's heart is in Tana, and that island is his chosen field of labour.

As Mr. Gordon may not be able to write you by this chance, I may just say that he has given up the idea of visiting the island of *Espirito Santo* this year. He is now opening up a station on the north side of *Erromanga*, and has left Mr. McNair to occupy the station at *Dillon's Bay*. I am sure the mission will all approve of the step which Mr. Gordon has taken, for his removal from *Erromanga* at the present time would be a serious injury to the mission there.

Our latest letters from Mr. Morrison do not encourage us to hope for his speedy return to the islands. His health was slightly improved, but he is still very delicate. His removal from the mission has been a serious trial to it. Let us pray, if it be God's will, that his valuable life may be spared, and that he may have years of usefulness before him.

I hope to spend this month between the islands of *Tana* and *Erromanga*; and am under appointment also to spend the months of October and November in making an exploratory voyage among the heathen islands of this group. So much absence from my own station will interfere materially with my work here, but it is unavoidable. There is a great work to be done in these islands, and there are few to do it.

We long to hear of more missionaries for these islands. It is sad to think that you cannot find men who are willing to come to our help. May God incline some to give up the endearments of home, and come far hence to preach among these Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. The cause of our Redeemer languishes for want of men, while they are found ready to embark in every secular enterprise.

H. M. S. *Charybdis*, Capt. Lyons, is here at present. Her chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Smyth, visited this island in another ship during my absence. We find him a very excellent man, and a true friend of the missionary cause. He conducted an English service yesterday in our Church; and addressed our Sabbath School also. The visits of such a person in our distant island home are very refreshing to us. The *Charybdis* is here with despatches for H. M. S. *Challenger*, which is daily expected from the *Fijee Islands*.

The boxes sent from Halifax to Melbourne by the *Chauticleer* have come safely to hand, and your directions about them have been attended to. Many thanks to the friends of the mission for their seasonable supplies of clothing for the natives.

I must now bring my letter to a close. Remember us and our work at a throne of grace. May God direct and bless all our efforts for the furtherance of his cause.

I remain, ever yours, &c.,

JOHN GEDDIE.

REV. P. G. MCGREGOR, Sec'y. B. F. M. P. C. L. P.

(From Ref. Presby. Magazine.)

Letter from Rev. Thomas Neilson Jun.

AKAME, MAY 29, 1868.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—I wrote you last towards the close of last year. Being unable to gain a footing on *Tana*, I was requested to occupy Mr. Morrison's station at *Erakor*, *Fate*, during his absence on account of ill health. I have, in consequence, been staying there during the last five months. Mr. Morrison's house stands on a little island named *Eranyon*, which lies at the entrance of a lagoon that runs about six miles inland. This island is in shape like a pear, with the broad end to the sea, and in extent about 30 to 40 acres. It divides the entrance of the lagoon into two channels of about equal size—500 or 600 yards in width. Across the mouth of one of these stretches a reef, passable only at high water, and on the mainland, on this branch, facing Mr. Morrison's house, lies the village of *Erakor*, containing at present 126 people. On the other channel there is free passage for a boat at all states of the tide. Except the natives of this village there are no inhabitants along the shores of the lagoon, and the fish swim and leap undisturbed, and the mangrove trees, with their stealthy tread, ever encroach upon the waters. Across this lagoon I paddle every morning to school; and one of the most beautiful sights to be seen in the whole Pacific, I see every day. All you young ladies who keep aquariums at home, listen to this! The water is about twelve or