

bedroom for about three months, when we got another ready for them, and as good as the one they were leaving. When Mr. Johnston came to Port Resolution, I was busy building houses, and so we agreed that it was better for him and Mrs. J. to apply their whole time in acquiring the language, so as to be ready for a new station, if one could possibly be got at the close of the rainy season. I gave them ten Tanna words daily which they committed to memory and were exercised on every night with conversational phrases. So that on an average they learned sixty words weekly, apart from words picked up by themselves from the Tannese.

I found Mr. Johnston to be a very agreeable friend and companion, full of missionary zeal, and always ready to try and do good for the poor heathen. He accompanied me to worship on Sabbath among the villages, and he also went with me in all my inland excursions. With Mr. Matheson's boat we visited Waisisi, and were kindly received. And in the *John Knox* we visited Wagusi to prepare the way for Aneiteum teachers being placed there. And often in company we have carried medicine and water to the sick and dying in our nearest villages, so that we loved each other as brothers, and had much sweet communion in the Lord's work among this benighted people. But alas! our Lord Jesus has called our dear brother into another department of his service, and for what, the future must develop.

Tanna is a large and rugged field, the laborers are few and the harvest is great and Mr. Johnston was full of youth, life and activity, and why he should be safely brought over a long voyage, enabled to acquire the language so as to be able, to speak to the people, and called away when his usefulness was just beginning, must remain among the inscrutable mysteries of God, who gives account of his ways to none; yet "He doeth all things well." And undoubtedly in his eternal purpose the time, the place and the means must have been arranged and fixed unalterably for his kingdom and the good of his church. "Even so, Father, for so it seemeth good in thy sight." "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord." Mr. Johnston's death is a great loss to the mission, and to the church, for he was much respected and beloved by all the members of it, and high hopes were entertained regarding his future career on Tanna, and his death will cause universal mourning in the mission, but let it be the united and earnest prayer of all concerned, that God will not abandon his work on dark, gloomy Tanna, but that he may raise up and qualify others to occupy the places of those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. And may this lesson teach us all to prepare for the awful change which may be nearer than we expect, and which "will come as a thief in the night."

For the last two months this island has been fearfully scourged with measles and other diseases. A vessel landed four young Tanna men ill with measles about three months ago, and in a short time this epidemic spread over the island. Some of the lads were killed for bringing the disease. Many have died and yet the people are dying in great numbers from the after effect. The mortality is so great in some places that many persons are left dying here and there on the earth unburied, or the door of the house is closed and the dead body left to decay with the house. For heathen are truly without natural affection, and take but little care of their health. The disease is still cutting off hundreds inland, and the people are for killing us and burning all that belongs to us, because they say we are foreigners, and the foreigners brought this disease to Tanna which is killing them all. Many of the most important chiefs have died, and only three men are left who come to worship. The inland people say they are all dying, and the worship is in some way the cause of it, therefore they want to destroy the worship of God from Tanna, but the tribes around us say the worship is good, and the medicine is good, and that "It is only the dark-hearted Tannese who blame Missi for the sickness." I believe our cause has gained much ground during this sickness if we are only spared to survive it. Our poor chief when dying got up and said "I'll run to Missi for medicine, for I am very ill; but when about half way he fell and died in the bush where he was found next morning.