

round the island, then steam away to Sydney and do nothing. The heathen would then joke us about it, and make sport of this empty ship whose great chiefs (officers) made a great show but could do no harm. Then the heathens would be more wicked against God's people, and the missionaries here, than ever Young men would get discouraged and leave the island, and only a few old men and women would be left, and then the heathen would easily complete their desire to crush God's word and his people so that they would not live again on Eromanga. So we were 'quick' to punish some of them ourselves; and besides, if we had not gone to fight them, they would have come over immediately to fight us, because they always say 'the christians are like women, they are not strong to defend themselves, and cannot fight.' We were alike to fight, but we forgave, and forgave, and forgave all their wicked conduct against God's people; but it's no use, they do not understand mercy, and besides we were very weak when the first Missi Gordon was killed; now we are strong, and they must leave us alone."

Such was their explanation to me. The two teachers did not shoot any person, but they accompanied those who did, and on their return they decided not to take part in the Sabbath services here till a missionary arrived, when they would ask his advice upon the subject. My reply to them was that they should attend church, but not take any active part just now till I should consult with some of the other missionaries. I further told them that the step taken by them would bring ill-will on themselves, and thereby endanger their lives and the lives of any of the christian natives who might fall into the hands of the tribes to whom the four natives whom they killed belonged. I further told them that their act would form an excuse, when a Ship of War came, for the infliction of no punishment upon the murderers. In this opinion I was fully borne out, for, when H. M. S. *Basilisk*, Capt. Moresly, arrived, the Captain came on shore to get all the facts he could gather from Smith and Gray, connected with a Whaling Establishment in Dillion's Bay, and from myself, and, when I informed him what the christian

natives had done, he said, "Ah! that places the whole matter in a most difficult line of action for me. Were it not for the action of the christian natives, I would go round and give the guilty tribes such a thorough and decided punishment that they should never forget it. Depend upon it there would have been no half measures employed." Captain Moresly then went round to Portinia Bay, taking with him Smith and Gray; Nailing, the Christian Chief, from this place; Worisnangare, an old heathen Chief, of Sūfū; and Natie, one of the teachers who accompanied the party who had shot the four heathen natives. The aim of Captain Moresly was to bring the heathen Chiefs who were all concerned in the murder of Mr. Gordon, and the christian party, to terms of peace, to bury the past, and promise him they would no more disturb or persecute the christians or the missionaries. This they promised to do, and signed the agreement to that effect, (a copy of which is given on next page.) Captain Moresly said to them that if the christians had not shot some of their friends or party, he would have punished them most severely for the murder of Mr. Gordon. He said, however, that he would not do anything now, providing they remained henceforth quiet, and refrain from lifting a hand against the missionaries or the christian party; but if they again attempted any mischief, he would return, and no terms of peace would then be entered into. Captain Moresly brought next day to me a number of Mr. Gordon's books in a damaged condition, and we sold them that day by auction. The officers of the *Basilisk* purchased some of the books, so that we realized £14 9s. 6d. for them. The ship then sailed away to Aniwa, Tanna, Fortuna, Aneityum and New Caledonia, and thence to Sydney.

The whole friendly party on Eromanga, numbering about 70 men, women and children, are huddled together in this valley, and have been, ever since Mr. Gordon's death; and dare not even go to church nor cross the river to bury their dead, nor go to their plantations, nor to the fresh water, without their muskets, as their lives are not worth an hour's purchase because of the dreadful cunning and enmity of the