

this we were surprised and afraid, and trembled, and said, 'Who is this Jesus? and what is this God? we know them not, we cannot receive the religion of another people. If we receive another Lord, our own gods will be envious, and will kill every one of us.' We consulted among ourselves, and said, 'Let us be strong, and carry on war, and practise witchcraft, and sacrifice to the gods, and commit murder, and keep up all the customs of our own land, and put a stop to this new religion, that the missionaries may leave us and go away back to their own land.' But the missionaries were not afraid of our heathenism; they stood up boldly for God's Word, and preached it to us, and persuaded us to receive it. We gave up all our heathenism, and lived in peace, and rejoiced in the gospel, and were glad with a great gladness. Yea, even last year, when the sickness came upon all the people of Aneiteum, it was only one man, and he was not a christian, who rose up and burned the church. He did not consult with others; no one sent him. The great tempter alone entered his heart, and said to him, 'Go and burn the church,' hoping that all the people would go back to heathenism through his temptations. But all the chiefs were angry at him for his conduct; they banished him; they took away his land and all his goods. When they were trying him, and thinking what punishment they would inflict on him, he trembled for his life, and said he would be a christian; but he was not sincere.

"On the island of Tana Mr. Paton and Mr. Matheson are living and teaching the people. The Tanese are very hard-hearted, but a part of them wish to obey the Word of God, were it not for one man, his name is Miki: he is angry with Mr. Paton, and forbids the people to hear and receive the gospel.

"On Erromanga the people murdered Mr. and Mrs. Gordon; but it was not themselves who proposed this, it was all because of the words of a foreigner, named Rangi, a native of India, who lives there. When the sickness came to Erromanga, Rangi made their hearts evil against the missionaries, by saying that Mr. Gordon was making the disease, and when a great chief died they believed his word, and killed the missionary and his wife.

"I would like to tell you about other islands. There are Aniwa, and Fotuna, and Santo, and Apee, and Fate: there are teachers on all these, but no missionaries. This is not good. It is not good for children to lead other children by the hand, lest both of them lose their way. I have lived here a long time with Mr. and Mrs. Inglis, but I have not heard of even one of you who is willing to go back with us three. I am but ashes, dust, rubbish. I cannot speak anything before you who fear God, all of you; but I wish to ask you a little about one thing. Will none of you come out to our dark islands—and they are many as well as dark—and teach us the way to heaven, deliver us from darkness, and place us up beside you on the seat of God, that our rejoicing and gladness may be same as yours, joy for eternal life? I know that it is very difficult for you to leave this fine country, where you enjoy every good thing, where every one is good to you, and every one praises you. But do not be afraid because our land is far away, do not be afraid to come, do not say us nay, do not refuse us, do not leave us in heathenism; come to our islands, pray to God for us, preach his gospel in every island; be strong, be courageous, think of our many wicked lands, where they know nothing of the one true God, and the way to heaven through his Son Jesus Christ."

NEWS OF THE CHURCH.

PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU.

The Presbytery of Pictou met at New Glasgow on the 12th August. Commissioners appeared from the congregation of Merigomish with a petition for the moderation of a call to one to be their pastor. The application was granted and the Rev. D. B. Blair appointed to moderate in the call on the 27th of that month.