

Alas! that those of most promise should be the first to fall; yet it is even so. Verily God seeth not as man seeth. His way is in the sea and his footsteps are not known. We are apt to say that all these things are against us, but they may be all for us. It is our consolation and encouragement, that God doeth all things well. The gracious purposes of heaven to a sinful world are often brought about in ways that appear dark to short sighted mortals. Let us not be dismayed or repine; for all will be well in the end. The cause of the Redeemer is not contingent on our lives. Man may die and pass away, but Jesus Christ lives; and while he lives and reigns we need not fear. God has a great work for us as a Church to do, and he is preparing us for it, by that severe discipline which in his infinite wisdom he sees fit to impose.

CALL TO GO FORWARD.

Let not our hearts faint, our faith waver, or our hope sink in these trying times. If clouds are passing over us, we can also speak of sunshine. This island may now be considered as added to the number of Christian nations, our brethren on Tana have their enemies, but it is also true that the mission there has many sincere friends, on whose dark hearts there is some reason to hope that the grace of God has begun to operate; and we have a band of witnesses here from Erromanga, who at no distant day will return accompanied by others to spread the truth throughout the length and breadth of that dark island. Then there are great and populous islands in the distance, which present noble fields for missionary enterprises. Let us trust in God, and gird on our armour for the great work before us, in the assurance that he will bless us. Our Church seems in a manner solemnly pledged to the work of missions on this group of islands. You must always feel an interest in the one that has renounced heathenism and embraced Christianity, as it was the scene of our early trials, encouragements and hopes; and we have taken possession of other two by having secured them in "a burying place" and many hearts will go out to the graves yonder. We ask your prayers and we ask for men and women to take the place of those who have gone to their rest. May your efforts and ours in the cause of God never diminish, until his

way be known upon earth, and his saving health among all nations.

I remain Rev. and Dear Sir,

JOHN GEDDIE.

Rev. James Bayno.

LETTERS FROM REV. J. W. MATHESON.

TANA, April 1, 1861.

CONTINUED PERILS—PROVIDENTIAL INTERPOSITIONS—AND DAWNING HOPES.

Rev and Dear Sir,—If you are in the receipt of our last letters, you must know that we are indeed living in troublous times, and surrounded by many dangers. During the past month matters instead of improving, as we had fondly hoped they would, have been proceeding from bad to worse. Those who formerly professed friendship have become our openly avowed enemies. Even Yaresi and Kati have been resorting to very many expedients in influencing the hearts of the people against us, and have done everything that lay in their power, to oppose the spread of the gospel. Neither of them have been to Church except on one Sabbath day since New Year's. About 10 days ago they made a great feast at Yaresi's and Namaka's land, at which Namaka made a long speech, and asked the people what they were doing? and why they had not killed us long ago? He durst not come himself, as one of the tribes living between here and there, still seek his life, in order to be avenged for the death of the man whom he and Yaresi killed last July, on the death of Namaka's youngest son. On Thursday last Fiamaga (chief of Umai-kavera, and Yaresi came, saying that two of their men had been to Port Resolution the previous day, and that Mr. Paton had sent word for us and all the Aneiteumese to go to the harbour that day, (Thursday) that we might all talk together about the state of matters. They told their story very plausibly, but seeing that they had not any letter from Mr. Paton to confirm their statements, I immediately said to Mary, that there must be some devilment recently manufactured, of which we had not heard; and so there was. When we came here Kati and Yaresi promised to protect us. They now find that the word of God is directly opposed to their heathenism, and they want to get rid of all missionary