

also failed, as I could not get one, who would consent to go upon any condition. They all knew the plot that had been laid for us, and said that though we might get there unnoticed, some body would hear of our being away, before we could be able to return.

In the evening the two Aneiteumese volunteered to go in their canoe after night, provided they could get away unobserved by the natives. At dark I went down to the shore, saw that they had every thing in readiness to leave, as soon as the natives should go to rest, and after committing them to the care of Him, who can deliver from the snare of the fowler, from the terror by night, and from the arrow that flieth by day. I returned home, and we awaited their return with no little anxiety. They arrived there safely at 1 o'clock, A. M., and returned, the bearers of sad tidings, of tidings for which we were not prepared, saying to us in an awfully solemn voice, "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye know not, your Lord cometh." I need not say, that we can scarcely realize that such is the case; but, oh! it is true. Yes it is true, that another standard bearer of the Cross has fallen on the battle-field, and while we are praying that God would send forth labourers into his harvest, he has seen meet in his unerring wisdom to cut down one from whom we had expected much—one who encouraged high hopes of being a very faithful and successful labourer in the vineyard of the Lord. Yes, one well adapted for bearing hardness as a good soldier of the Cross. But the Lord hath done it, and knowing that he doeth all things well, we would endeavour to bow in humble submission, and cheerfully to acquiesce in this, to us, strange and exceedingly mysterious dispensation. Had not Our Father in Heaven done it, we could not sustain the trial; but he seeth the end from the beginning, and though we cannot yet read this dispensation of His Providence, yet there is a day coming, when God will make it all plain, when he will make it manifestly evident, that it was for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby. We murmur not, we repine not, at what the Lord hath done, though we cannot refrain from saying, dear brother, that is an awfully hard trial. Yes, it fills the heart with grief—thus on a lonely isle—surrounded by a savage people, where the daily, yea, the hourly cry is the blood of the Missionary, where every injury, real or imaginary, is attributed to the Missionary, and where his heart's blood is considered the only satisfactory compensation, which can be rendered, to see a brother falling at your side. Such an event is painful at any time, and under any circumstances; but oh, if possible, it is doubly hard to be borne at the present moment, when the enemy is coming in like a flood, when the united powers of darkness are apparently combined against us, and when through fears within and through fightings without, heart and flesh are both ready to faint and to fail.

Mrs. Johnston has been wonderfully supported under her severe trial, and has borne her irreparable loss with much submission to the will of God. Oh sustain her by your prayers. She enjoys good health, and will probably go to Aneiteum, as soon as the *John Knox* resumes her voyaging to this island.

28.—Matters are still in a very unsettled state at both stations. The mortality seems to be less here this month than last, but greater at Port Resolution. The mortality at the latter place is I think at present similar to what it was here last month. This month we have had but forty-five natural deaths, and two men killed. Last month fifty-seven and three women killed. Think of dear brother Paton in the hour of prayer. He is a true yoke fellow in the Gospel of Jesus. The cup which our Father has given him to drink is a bitter one. May we not hope that the crown which he has in reserve for him, may be well studded with precious gems.

J. W. M.

Rev. James Bayne.

MR. PATON'S NOTE TO MR. MATHESON.

TANNA, 17TH FEBRUARY, 1861.

My Dear Brother,—I received yours of yesterday about one o'clock this morning, and was exceedingly glad to hear that you were both in the land of the living and in the place of hope. I never wearied so much to hear from you.