

it is not doubtful now to see what Kowiowi aimed at, which we believe was nothing less than to rid the island of its foreign population, and once and forever to exterminate the Christian religion.

Kowiowi who was residing on the opposite side of the river from the spot occupied by the traders used to keep open house for all guilty of crimes similar to his own. Nair became his guest. This fired the traders. They concluded that he was implicated and resolved to punish him. One morning about 150 men were thrown on the opposite side of the river, and all these were in good trim for doing their work. Soon tall cocoa-nuts measured the ground with their long lengths. Pigs were killed, plantations destroyed and houses burned. The blazing buildings, smoking grounds, and noisy hogs pleading in vain for their lives with savage yells, made that a dismal day. Two piles of yams set apart for a feast were, with the animals slain, feasted upon in the evening in a manner little suspected by the old chief a few days previous. It was very galling, but a righteous retribution for one who had been living by sufferance upon the grounds of the traders.

These events took place on the Saturday and on the Sabbath following the *Dayspring* from Sydney arrived, and found brisk firing going on across the river and from both sides.

At that period my relations with the traders were at their worst. These were pretty good until I could no longer connive at the wickedness practised in the sandal wood traffic. *For one month I knew not from whom I had most to dread, and now would be ashamed to say.* There were 200 foreigners then idle in the Bay. On the sandal wood premises there was horrible confusion, and that made worse confounded by the mental condition of the white man, who was leader of the Tana-men, who it seems was *non compos mentis*. No language could adequately portray the scenes of those days, and I would welcome death rather than to go through them again. As life was extremely uncertain I prepared for the worst by consigning my papers to a trusty native, directing him how to dispose of them in case of more adverse events occurring. The missionaries on board the *Dayspring* became mediators between the two contending parties. The result of that mediation, I believe, went to show the natives what they always believed, viz., that though missionaries and traders differ in some respects, still that in the main their sympathies were with their own, the white tribe. In it I took no part, and advised all over whom I had any influence to stand aloof, which they did. In this way the contest was speedily terminated, the natives finding that they could not cope with their

superiors in arms, and I let them know that the traders had guns which would pick them off at the distance of half a mile. Mediation, however, was not fruitless as it resulted in securing for Kowiowi the restitution of his pigs, which were given him just before the traders left the island.

The chiefs under Kowiowi's influence had resolved to destroy the entire foreign population. My name, I was thankful to learn, was the last on the list. Having been informed by Worrisnangeri, that the life of the lady at the head of the sandal wood establishment was eagerly sought, I immediately apprized her of the fact but without giving the name of my informant, as that would have exposed him to censure and because he was her old foe. This she was slow to believe, till one day having walked out a little way, she soon had a number of balls sent whizzing past her.

#### DEPARTURE OF THE TRADERS.

In the end of August the last load of sandal-wood was shipped from Erromanga for Hong Kong; and with unfeigned thankfulness I saw the vessel sail away with her accursed cargo. After this event a small schooner began removing their effects to New Caledonia. On the 22nd of November all was on board, and the traders themselves embarked.

#### THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY.

Previous to the departure of the traders, their property in Dillon's Bay, containing a dwelling-house and other out-buildings, with the land on both sides of the river was purchased. In our weak state it was considered impossible to retain possession of both premises. Besides, it was all along held out, that Kowiowi purposed taking possession so soon as they were unoccupied. This would have been fatal to us; and what increased our anxiety was the knowledge of the fact, that Worrisnangeri had been to Kowiowi's cave the night before the traders left. It was before day-light, and Kowiowi went to the shore and spoke to him in his canoe; but none but themselves knew what passed between them. In Kowiowi's first wife, a fine old body, we had a friend, and she managed to get word to us about the meeting. The worst fears were of course entertained. We decided to move at once. The house up the river was vacant only one night.—The traders having embarked at dusk, and weighed anchor at daybreak the next morning. While fitting our foes appeared on the opposite side of the river, but did not venture over. An attack was expected, and our friends—among whom were some young men from Rowilyou,—came unexpectedly to our aid and 'Waristaki,' and other chiefs, were