

Fletcher and twelve Fateans in July last.—Time and other circumstances prevented. The result is as might have been anticipated. If there is ability to punish, why not try it? The guilty answer by saying, of course, that there is inability. It is extremely difficult to reach them, bear in mind.—Whether it should have been attempted under existing circumstances, is another question. The issue is particularly unfortunate. There appears to be an ill-fate attending the visits of ships of war to this island.—The Commodore purposed representing the whole case to the Admiralty, and, if needed, a vessel would at some future day be despatched to the island to settle outstanding grievances. The heathen rage—Jehovah reigns. How signally we have been reproved for leaning upon an arm of flesh. Sir William expressed a desire to do all he could, if not all he wished. By a note received from him at Fate, he promised to call here again next month. If his sympathies were not with missions when he left Sydney, they are now, since his cruise to the East and thus far in the West. An annual visit was promised. The brethren at Fate presented him with an address, commending his policy, and the humanity and justice which characterized his measures and movements. Mr. Inglis was voted away to render assistance in negotiations, both here and at Tana, and his services were valuable.

All our teachers who had plantations at the Bay here, and others on the premises, have had them plundered and destroyed.

I have made arrangements to get a ton of beans from Aneiteum, which will help us through the long scarce season now in prospect, and present even.

The Committee have offered Mr. Henry £150 for his premises. If he can get more he will not take it. He values the buildings,—I, the land, for the peaceful settlement of our friendly natives. The situation of the house is bad, and its associations worse. I would not live in it if it were vacated to-morrow.

INCIDENTS.

Another fearful death occurred there a few days ago, by the bursting of a small piece of ordnance. A white man was blown to pieces.

The sandal-wood trade is fast breaking up,—going like the ice out of Pictou harbor in the month of May, or April perhaps.

Range has moved off to Fate, and taken his Seraglio with him. Two other Malays have gone, one taken two women and another one—slaves bought and sold, and carried off against their will. One poor young girl was dragged, against her own tears and father's wishes on board a little French vessel, Capt. Vincent, and taken to New

Caledonia. My whole being curses the accursed traffic. May God have mercy upon the miserable captives, whose countrymen will never get protection until the gospel gives it them. Of the four hundred foreign natives here at the end of my first year, there are not over one hundred now.

The *Dayspring* tarried here two or three days, to water for her Eastern voyage. I had the company the brethren, Messrs. Inglis, Paton and McCullagh the meanwhile, and missed the *Dayspring* as she disappeared at dusk behind the southern headland of Dillon's Bay.

PROSPECTS.

My situation here is not very comfortable. The people all around are at war at the present time. I see no speedy solution of difficulties. All I have been attempting for the last six months has been to maintain my ground—to hold what we have. The brethren think I will do well if I can make out to live through another year. This is small business. The present is a very critical juncture in our affairs. If we can outlive the present gale we may have a period of tranquility afterward. As we greatly need, so may we have the benefit of the prayers of the faithful among you. You know what moves the hand that moves the world.

This leaves me well: may it find you in health. Greet all the brethren. Yours are remembered. I have a lively recollection of good friends in Pictou and New Glasgow.

Prof. McCulloch is gone. The tribute paid him in his obituary notice is well merited. I have much reason to think, as well as to speak good of him. I never heard him excel in a Sabbath school, and doubt if many heard him equalled.—One by one they go and are leaving us alone in the world. With heavy tread we follow hard behind. My spirit sometimes stretches out her hands to catch hold on a place of rest.

Yours, &c.,

J. D. GORDON.

Aneiteum, N. Hebrides, July 31, 1863.

Minutes of Missionary Conference.

At a meeting of the New Hebrides Mission held here this day, present—Rev'ds J. Inglis, J. G. Paton, D. Morrison, J. D. Gordon, Wm. McCullagh, J. Niven, and Capt. Fraser, the following minutes were passed:

1. This meeting embraces the present opportunity (it being impracticable to hold a meeting at an earlier date) of expressing gratitude to Almighty God for the safe return of the *Day Spring*, on the 9th of June, and for the good health enjoyed by all on board.

2. This meeting likewise expresses grat-