

man-of-war's proceedings; but we felt that to decline would be a dereliction of duty on our part. We considered ourselves as called upon to give testimony. He wishes us, to-day, (Monday) again on board, to assist him in holding communication with the Emel men. What the result of these interviews, between himself and the natives, may be we cannot tell. Whether he may consider it his duty, under present circumstances, to punish them or not, remains yet to be seen. But, I believe, he has no inclination to be harsh with the natives where justice seems at all to favour them. As for us, our position seems not to be much affected by either of the two courses between which he has to choose. If he chastises them, unless he do it *thoroughly*, it will only stimulate them to revenge. If he does not chastise them for their lawless deeds, they and others may be emboldened and prompted by cupidity to repeat those outrages. We are, verily, like sheep among wolves. But God is our keeper. He is able to keep us. It is under His safe conduct we came and we remain.

Our station here has suffered a very paralyzing shock lately. The vessel which took our letters, *King Oscar*, took away to Queensland ten of our young men for a period of either two or three years. I may say they took away the strength of our village. These we had been training with all diligence, hoping they might yet become the lights of this dark land. But they left us ere we knew they were to go. Of course they left willingly. But I say they were tempted to do so. That vessel brought back one Ebag man with two chests and a good deal of stuff. He had been away before I came here. The allurements of so much "nikal" was too much for our young men to resist, and so off they went in a body! This draft has nearly quite stunned us here. I am now building a house, and have very little suitable help left me in the village. But we must still do like David—encourage ourselves in the Lord our God.

You will be glad to hear that, through the kindness of the Lord, my wife was safely delivered of a fine healthy boy on the 17th inst. Both are doing well. With our united love to Mrs. McG. and yourself,

Believe me, ever yours, &c.,
DONALD MORRISON.

ERAKOR. EFAT, Aug. 1st, 1866.

Rev. Dear Sir,—I embrace this opportunity of once more dropping you a hasty line. The *Falcon's* work at Emel is done; in fact she did no work at all. Mr. C. and myself, at Capt. Blake's request, assisted him in holding an interview with the natives as interpreters. I believe it is owing to that that he did not destroy their property. He

said to the chief, in parting, that he gave both his life and property to us. Not that we pleaded for him; on the contrary, we told him distinctly that he was to allow no bearing which the consequences might have on us to influence him in the administration of justice. It was, I believe, owing to the fact, that we enabled him to look at the grievances of the natives at white men's hands; for they have their grievances. They stated nothing against the part destroyed, in particular. They make one white man responsible for another's act.

The Emel chief declined coming on board, though sent for by a boat manned with heathen from Efil. But on hearing that we and a few of the christian natives were on board, he put off to the ship in one of their own canoes. This is a tribute to christianity, even from the heathen. Capt. Blake told the Emel chief, however, that the matter is not yet foreclosed; that he has come to inquire and to report.

The *Dayspring* is now away to Santo, to see what missionary prospects are open there. Mr. Gordon and Mr. Neilson are the visiting missionaries on board. Mr. and Mrs. McNair spent our summer months, your winter, in Aneiteum. There Mrs. McNair gave birth to a still-born child. She almost lost her own life also. Both the McNairs are rather delicate. They are now again living on Erromanga. How the work is prospering on Erromanga we do not know, as we did not hear from Mr. G. since the *Dayspring* left us in December last year. Tana seems closed against the gospel again. Aniwa, Mr. Paton's station, is in a very hopeful condition. The majority of the inhabitants are worshippers, and the rest friendly. On Futuna, Mr. Copeland says he just lives. The natives do not disturb him, but do not manifest any desire for the gospel.

The whooping cough, brought to these islands last year by the *Sea Witch*, is doing havoc among the children in Aneiteum. So it has done in Efat. It is sad to see the poor natives dwindling away as they are on these islands. But this is not confined to the islands on which the gospel is preached; nor does it depend upon, though it may be aggravated by, their contact with white men. For villages are depopulated in the interior of this island by epidemics, where they never saw white men. Nor have these epidemics been brought to the island by white men. This depopulation has been going on now for at least two generations. It would appear as if there were something like a natural law, by which a long course of wickedness indulged in would lead to this result—correct itself in this way.

Believe me, ever yours, faithfully,
D. MORRISON.

REV. P. G. MCGREGOR.