

We have received £190 sterling from New Zealand for the Mission a few weeks ago. The congregation of the Rev. R. Hamilton, Melbourne, has collected £20 also, and others promise help. These sums will be applied to the extension of the Mission.

J. G.

LETTER FROM MRS. GORDON.

We have been kindly furnished with the following letter from the late Mrs. Gordon to a young lady in this Province. Its perusal will deepen the grief of the Church for the loss sustained by the Erromangan Mission in the martyrdom of so pious and devoted a lady.

ERROMANGA, Sept. 29th, 1860.

My Dear Friend,—

In acknowledging the receipt of your kind and welcome letter of September last, allow me to express my warmest feelings of gratitude for the interest you have manifested on my behalf, and your desire for my welfare, which I appreciate the more highly, on account of being an utter stranger to you. Altho' I cannot claim kindred or personal acquaintance with you or any other of my kind friends in Nova Scotia, I rejoice that it is my happiness, through grace, to be accounted one of your number in that great family in which neither distance or nation makes any distinction; that family whose blessedness it is to address God with the endearing appellation of "Abba Father." In his family he has not any members of more distant relationship than that of children. We are therefore not strangers, tho' unknown to each other—but *sisters* in the kingdom of Christ.

Hitherto the link in my chain of correspondence has not extended beyond the shores of dear Old England. Yet I can assure you that my heart has been linked with yours in the bonds of Christian love, on the other side of the Atlantic. From the first of my connexion with you, through Mr. Gordon, I have cherished a warm affection for you all as the early associates and esteemed friends of my dear husband, and feel it to be a blessing to have such friends.

I am glad to inform you that the Mission goods accompanying your letter have come safely to hand, and are quite suitable to meet the wants of the Mission. There are however two articles

dress combs and worsted yarn. The natives here have short woolly hair, and the females therefore cannot make use of *dress combs*.

In reply to your question respecting the social condition of the females of Erromanga, I fear I can give you but little information beyond what you have already derived from other sources. The story of woman's degradation is but one in the wide dominion of heathenism and that has been often told well and truthfully. I will however at your request tell it again from Erromanga, hoping it may prove interesting to you.—Woman is here treated as a slave and a beast of burden, abused and beaten by vile men at their pleasure. Betrothed in childhood and oftentimes as early dragged to the abode of her future husband, she is soon made to feel the weight of the tyrant's rod, with no other prospect before her than a life of unmitigated servitude, until death releases her from the hands of the cruel oppressor, to go where? Some of them choose to be self-destroyers rather than to drag on a life of such misery. They commit suicide, by first blind-folding their eyes and then ascending some high tree, or the brink of a precipice, and dashing themselves down like Judas, thus hurrying themselves into the unseen. Alas! what an awful condition is their, both for this world and that which is to come!

Thus we see that in every region not favored with the knowledge of salvation through Jesus Christ, the curse of the first transgression still rests more heavily upon the *daughters* of Eve. Truly it is to Christianity alone that woman is indebted for the high and happy position which she now occupies in society. Oh how highly should we prize the privileges which *we* enjoy, and strive to be the means, under God, of bringing those depraved ones to the enjoyment of the same! You in Christian lands can form no adequate idea of what heathenism is, but now to the first chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans, and there, you will find the character of the people among whom we live and labour, most truthfully delineated. Their practices are most revolting—even among the females. Their manners and conversation are most unseemly; it is a shame to speak of things done by them in the *light of day*. It has long been our earnest desire to get a few of them to