

when he heard about the sick man, he consented to go with Nahobili. So he tied up his dinner again and gave it to Nahobili to carry, telling him to go on before. At this juncture Mr. Gordon unhappily sent away his own two lads to cut some wood of which he was in want, telling them to fetch the wood and wait till he should return after dinner. Nahobili refused to go foremost, requesting Mr. Gordon to do that, which he did. They had not proceeded far towards the house, when a man who had been concealed in the bush, sprang out and aimed a blow at Mr. Gordon with a hatchet. He raised his arm to ward off the blow, and received a slight wound. He then ran pursued by Nahobili. His progress was soon obstructed by a steep place in the path, covered with loose stones. While in the act of ascending this height, his savage pursuers overtook him. Nahobili struck him a severe blow on the back, near the loins, inflicting a deadly wound. He fell and a second blow in the neck from the man who first struck him put an end to his life. His death must have been instantaneous, as the spine was severed, as were also the principal arteries of the neck.

"One of the men named Ubel, now rushed on towards the house to complete the dreadful tragedy. Mrs. Gordon had heard a noise, and she and the girl who was with her had gone outside in consequence. She asked the girl what the noise was; whether it was the lads who had gone to cut thatch returning or what? Ubel passed round behind the servants and the cooking house, which were in the rear of the dwelling house, and came stealthily behind Mrs. Gordon, and struck her a severe blow in the side with a hatchet. He struck her a second blow on the neck and all was over. Her liberated spirit was with that of her martyred husband before the throne. Happily she knew not what had befallen him till she reached that world where they grieve no more.

"The servant girl witnessed the murder of Mrs. Gordon. Terror stricken she fled down to the Bay where the lads were at work with the fearful intelligence. The lads felt as if paralysed. Good faithful Joe and Mana made an effort and led the way.—They made all possible haste, lest the bodies should be carried off to the oven. They found Mr. Gordon's body at the rise in the path where he fell. Four of them returned with it to the Bay. The other four went and brought the body of Mrs. Gordon."

After giving Mr. Milne's accounts of the burial Mr. M. adds:—

"From what we have said it will be seen that the enemies of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon would not in all probability have succeeded

in their designs against them had they been nearer their friends in the Bay. There was another peculiarity in the course adopted by our brother, which had very serious bearings on the safety of himself and Mrs. Gordon, and on the interests of the Mission, to which we must refer. The following extract from a letter addressed by Mr. Geddie to the Secretary of the Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Nova Scotia, with which Mr. Geddie is connected, and to which Mr. Gordon belonged will explain our meaning. Mr. Geddie says:—"As Mr. Gordon was a public man, his plans and operations form a lawful subject of remark. I would gladly avoid allusion to the subject, but it would not be just to the cause. I speak the honest sentiments of my heart when I say that our late brother was a good man, an earnest minister of Christ, and in certain circumstances would have been "a burning and shining light." But his views of the noble enterprise in which he was engaged were peculiar. It is already known to the Church that he had adopted strange views about native agents, and that he carried on the work without the aid of that valuable class of men. He lived long enough to see his error, but not long enough to correct it. He was earnestly in search of the agency—which at one time he so lightly esteemed—at the time of his death. The question in favour of native agency in the Pacific Isles has been settled by the experience of nearly half a century; and the extent to which God has blessed the labours of native teachers, shows that the system has the sanction of heaven. It is true that these good men have their shortcomings and imperfections, and could not, as a general rule, be exhibited as models of Christian excellence. But it is equally true that their simple faith, their self-denial, and their readiness to endure all things for Jesus' sake and the Gospels, often excite admiration and gratitude to God. It was a dangerous experiment which Mr. Gordon tried, when he set his views and practice on the subject of native agency in opposition to those of almost every Missionary in the South Sea Islands. Instead of striking out any new course, he puts himself in the position of the first Missionaries to Polynesia, who from necessity, laboured unaided and alone; most of whom were either killed or driven from their work; and the result has not been different on Erromanga. He needed help to scatter the seed of divine truth throughout the length and breadth of the island, and to meet the evil influences against him. Had he placed himself at the head of the native teachers whom he found on Erromanga a few years ago, guided them in their labours, and increased their numbers, as new openings presented themselves, there is much reason to believe, that that sad catastrophe which