

ment: the most ignorant of the heathens understand this principle, as well as the most enlightened of mankind. To appeal in this way may be often inexpedient; but I hold it to be always lawful. I would be slow, very slow, to invoke strong measures; but when, as a last resort, they are felt to be necessary, and have to be employed, I would, so as justice would warrant, have such a blow given, and given in such a manner as would produce the greatest amount of terror, and most effectually secure the end contemplated.

After this statement of facts and principles connected with this case, it is for the Board to decide, to what extent we are blameworthy in the course we have followed, or to what extent we have been misrepresented and unjustly censured in the official organ of the mission. It is not the first time in my missionary life that I have been misunderstood, misrepresented, and censured without just cause; yet afterwards in the providence of God fully vindicated. I trust it will yet be so in the present case.—I have implicit faith in God's over-ruling providence; I have great faith in the principles of Christian men; I have the utmost confidence in the Mission Board; I believe the Board to be morally incapable of intentionally cherishing an uncharitable thought, far less of uttering an uncharitable word, against any one connected with this mission. But our position here was very peculiar; a position particularly liable to be misunderstood and misrepresented. When the Board had before them only the scanty information supplied at first by the missionaries, and the very incorrect and grossly exaggerated accounts published at first in Sydney, it was very natural that their fears should be excited, their minds perplexed, and their utterances hasty; but when they fully understand the facts of the case, and the principles on which we acted, I feel confident we shall receive ample justice at their hands, for "charity never faileth."

I remain, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

JOHN INGLIS.

P. S.—*June 1.*—Since writing the above, the *Dayspring* has returned from Fate and Erromanga. Mr. McCullagh and I afterwards accompanied her to Fotuna, Aniwa, and Tanna. If the most satisfactory consequences can be accepted as a vindication of the proceedings of the *Curacoa*, then the course pursued last year may be regarded as amply vindicated. On all the five islands, from Tanna to Fate, the effects for good have been most striking. This year the natives, in most places, are almost like a different race; the wicked and ill-disposed are laid under restraint, and the well-inclined and well-disposed can act up to their

inclinations. The *Dayspring* lay for two days and two nights at Port Resolution, as quietly, and with as little apprehension or danger, as if she had been anchored at Aneiteum. As appears to me, our expected brethren will reach the field at a very favourable juncture. May we all have grace given us to improve it wisely! J. I.

LETTER FROM REV. DR. GEDDIE.

ANEITEUM, NEW HEBRIDES, }
Dec. 26th, 1866. }

My Dear Sir,—I have read Mr. Inglis' letter to you, in answer to the article on the *Curacoa's* visit to Tanna, &c., which appeared in the February number of the *Home and Foreign Record*. I regret to see my name introduced into that letter, in a way which it would be improper to pass over without notice. If my friend thought that he had been injured by me in connection with the offensive article, he ought to have stated his charges frankly, and not chosen the mode of attack which he has done. In this instance, at least, he has departed from his favorite principle of acting only on the "defensive."

The article of which Mr. Inglis complains was written after I left Nova Scotia; and I was not aware before my departure that such a thing was in prospect. It overtook me in Britain, and when I read it there I did not know the author of it, and only obtained this knowledge from a private letter. I certainly did not *knowingly* furnish material to the author for it. It seems to be based partly on the letters of the missionaries whose conduct it denounces; but chiefly on my own letters to the Board of Missions, on my journals which the author had in his possession for a time, and on conversations with myself about the New Hebrides mission. The writer must have had most, if not all his information about the islands, long before the startling tidings of the *Curacoa's* visit reached home. It is not my habit to speak or write at random about our mission, and I now assume the responsibility of all information obtained from me, and challenge the most rigid investigation of it. The writer has I believe stated the naked truth, in strong, and sometimes offensive language, and I am sure that no-