

ill, and laid aside from duty. Mrs. Matheson's letters and his own will no doubt give you all information about his sickness. He was by no means robust when he landed on Tana in October last, but he was able to attend to his duties until the following March.— He labored with faithfulness and diligence, and accomplished an amount of work which surprised us all.

As soon as the tidings of Mrs. Patton's and Mr. Matheson's illness reached this island, Mr. Inglis and I visited Tana in the John Knox. As so many of the members of the mission were on the spot, we had a meeting, at which some resolutions were passed, of which I enclose you a copy. Mr. Matheson, at our urgent request, accompanied us home to Aneiteum. He has been on this island since the first of May. I regret that I cannot write you encouragingly about the state of his health. In addition to other troubles, he has fever and ague at present. I do not anticipate any immediate danger, but we scarcely venture to hope that he will be able to return to Tana. It will be a satisfaction to Mr. Matheson's friends to know that he is comfortable on Aneiteum, and that we are using all the means within our reach, for his recovery. As soon as we brought him to this island, we sent the John Knox to Erumanga, for Mr. McGillivray, naturalist, who is also a medical man, that he might enjoy the benefit of his skill. I may inform you, that Mr. McGillivray, in whose judgment we repose much confidence, gives but faint hopes of his ultimate recovery. The views of my brethren in relation to Mr. Matheson's case, are the same as my own.

The infant mission on Tana, has indeed been severely tried. The afflictions which have befallen it, have in some ways been adverse to the cause. The great objection of the Tanese, and many of these islands to christianity, is the impression that it brings disease and death to those who embrace it.— This impression will be to some extent strengthened by the events that have taken place. But we must not be discouraged. Though clouds have gathered around the Tana mission, yet these will soon disappear. And in the present state of the island, there is much to stimulate to exertion and to encourage hope.

I have been occupied for some months past, in revising our translation of the New Testament, which we hope to send to England by the return of the John Williams. It has been definitely arranged that Mr. Inglis shall go home and superintend the printing of it. Mr. Copeland will occupy his station on Aneiteum until his return. It would give me great satisfaction, if Mr. Inglis could extend his visit to Nova Scotia.— He is so intimately associated with us in the missionary work, that you ought to regard him as one of your own missionaries. A visit from him would, I have no doubt, awaken much interest in the cause.

My three children, Charlotte, Elizabeth, and John Williams, will also go home in the John Williams. After being joined by their sister, who is now in England, the four will proceed to Nova Scotia. The Rev. Messrs. Gill, Turner, and Inglis, who go as passengers, have kindly offered to take charge of my children during the voyage. The ship is expected to leave here about September, and after calling at Samoa, Rarotonga, Tahiti, and other islands, will proceed on her homeward voyage, by way of Cape Horn. She will probably reach England about May of next year. They will then remain under the care of Mr. Inglis or Mr. Turner, until they can be sent to Nova Scotia. You would greatly oblige me if you could make the necessary arrangements for their removal there. Any information on this subject, may be sent either to the Secretary of the London Missionary Society, or to the Secretary of the Mission Committee of the Reformed Pres. Church of Scotland.

You will be grieved to hear that one of our teachers who was settled on Nina last year has been killed. This small island lies about 12 miles from Tana. In a former letter I gave you an account of the settlement of the teachers there. I accompanied them to their destination, had a friendly meeting with the people, and received from them a promise that they would not injure them. The teachers' names were Navalak and Nemejian. It was their practice to go round the island every Sabbath day and hold meetings with the natives wherever they could find hearers. On the first Sabbath of May last, as they were returning home, two natives of Tana who