

we packed up some of our most valuable articles; on his return some of his armed natives assisted in carrying what was packed, down to the harbour, while others of them remained there to prevent our Tanese from stealing everything, that might be left in the house. Even with all their trouble, many articles were lost between the house and the boat harbour. Having succeeded by sunset in getting two boats load of our property collected at the harbour, and leaving the remainder packed in the house, we concluded that as we knew the natives were thirsting for our blood, that we should go to sea that night in the boat, even though we feared that we should not find the vessel, as it was then quite dark, and so it happened we could not find her, and were therefore obliged to sleep in the boat all night. The two boats kept pretty nearly together, and sometime during the night, we ran in Port Resolution, hoping to have fallen in with the vessel. The vessel was, however, drifted away with contrary winds and currents, and did not pick us up until the following evening. When we left our station, the mate intended to have gone back the next morning, but the wind and sea were unfavorable; as soon as we were picked up by the vessel we set sail for Aneiteum, where we arrived safely on Saturday forenoon. Upon our arrival, we were kindly welcomed by Mr. Geddie and family, with whom we are still living.

On Tuesday morning Mr. Copeland came round. After some conversation respecting our leaving Tana, the brethren seemed cordially to approve of the step which we had taken under the circumstances of the case. It was also agreed that we still regard Tana as our field of labour, and that every facility be afforded us in carrying on the work in connexion with the Tana Mission, as will be seen from an accompanying copy of the minutes of our meeting.

In reference to what has been or will yet be saved at our station, in the shape of mission and personal property, I cannot say positively; all moveable mission goods have been saved, and are here. The vessel has since returned to Tana.—Previously to her going, Mr. Paton and I instructed the Captain to pick up everything upon which he could lay his hand at either station, but as the vessel has not yet returned, I know not what may be missing, or what the natives may since have stolen or otherwise destroyed. I also sent for some of our natives who were friendly to us on Tana. Some of whom were living in daily peril, on account of their attachment to the new religion. The vessel was going to Erromanga before returning to this island. She left on the 11th inst., on the 12th the mate went ashore at our station and gathered up some more of our property, he also got some of the natives for whom I sent. As the wind did not favour their going to Erromanga, and as they were running short of water, they landed my natives on the other side of this island, last Friday night, and on Saturday they walked round to this side. The following are the names of some of the natives who have come up from my station, all of whom are now under daily Christian instruction, viz., Yaresi and his wife, Gwaiou, Via via and his wife, Kafou, Kapuku and his wife Rafa, together with five boys from 6 to 12 years of age.

Thus you see though the devil has succeeded in driving us from Tana, yet he has not kept all the Tanese from us. Since our Tanese came, I spend a portion of every day with them, in endeavouring to impart religious knowledge. I have also family worship with them morning and evening.

All things considered, I hope that our residence here for a time may tend even more to the building up of the Tana Mission, than if we were upon the spot; while we were on Tana, I believe that Kapuku would have declared himself on the Lord's side, were it not for the persecution to which he was subjected—he dare not come near the mission premises, either by day or night, for the purpose of receiving instruction as he earnestly desired. Time and again have they threatened to shoot him, if seen near the mission premises—but in the face of all their threatening, and in the midst of all our opposition, he stuck by us, declaring that he was resolved to receive and know the Word of God—his conduct is very consistent and I think he may be regarded as the first fruits of the Tana mission on this side of the island.

J. W. MATHESON.