

daring to undertake so hazardous a project among the savage, brutal Negroes of that vicinity.

To the north of the village of Shengeh, a hamlet of about 400 natives of the Sherbro tribe, peacefully inclined and responsive to good influences, dwells the tribe of Timnef, a warlike, cannibalistic race, said to be absolutely impervious to civilization, and upon whom no impression has ever been made for good. This tribe has for many years been bitterly opposed to the English and to the natives of the province who have submitted to the English Government. Time and again has this tribe broken out in hostile demonstrations, attacking neighboring villages and harassing the English troops of West India regiments and native police stationed there as a safeguard to the inhabitants. It appears that the Timnehs have an organization which they call the "Pura" society, the same as that organized among the South Sea Islanders, known as the "Taboo." The object of this society is to resist all efforts at civilization among themselves, and the inflicting of death upon anyone attempting to wean them from their original customs. Whatever they proclaimed "pura," must not even be touched by one of their number, nor any law obeyed or custom observed upon which this ban had been placed.

With such conditions confronting them, and in the face of this deadly antipathy, these noble and brave-hearted missionaries began their labors. From the day of their arrival and until the latter part of last April, they continued their work unmolested and with considerable success. After that period the Timnehs broke forth again, committing most horrible crimes, attacking peaceable villages, slaughtering the people without regard to sex or age, and destroying everything that fell into their hands. The immediate cause of this outbreak was the enforcement of the government "hut tax" and the suppression of cannibalism. The natives were threatened with imprisonment or confiscation of property unless the laws were obeyed. They revolted; among them, some of the Timnehs, who fled to the woods, stirred up their brethren, and with spear and cutlass started out on their terrible raid of death.

Among the victims who unfortunately fell into their savage hands and were slain were the Rev. and Mrs. I. N. Cain, the Rev. L. A. and Mrs. McGrew, Dr. Mary Archer, Dr. Mary E. Hatfield, and Miss Ella Schenck. Those who fortunately escaped were the Rev. and Mrs. L. O. Burtner, the Rev. and Mrs. F. S. Minshell and child, the Rev. A. A. Ward, and Miss Mary B. Mullen. The escape of Miss Mullen was little less than a miracle. She was stationed at Mamaliga, where the English commissioner and what few policemen were with

him were murdered. On May 2nd, a band of 600 savages, in full war dress and armed with cutlasses, swept down upon the little village and made a furious demonstration before the mission house in which Miss Mullen had taken refuge, brandishing their weapons reeking with blood, their hands and arms dripping, and amidst the wildest shouts and hideous noises threatened the life of this imprisoned Christian woman. She, in describing her experience, said:

"My blood almost froze within me, when I saw that terrible crowd of bloodthirsty cannibals not more than a hundred yards away from my house, yelling defiance at me, and in their broken English telling me what they would do with me when they caught me, and there I was, absolutely helpless, with not the least chance of escape. I had in fact given up all hope, and had resigned myself to my impending fate, when suddenly I noticed a commotion among the warriors, and venturing a little nearer my window, I could see them making preparations for a hasty departure. In less than an hour not a soul was to be seen, and at first I thought it a trick to draw me out; but fortunately I was mistaken. I suddenly heard the tramp of soldiers, and with a fervent prayer of thanksgiving I sank to my knees. Soon after a body of native police and a company of West India soldiers made their appearance, and applied for admission. I threw open the doors with a hearty welcome, and they informed me that they had been sent up by the governor from Freetown to investigate the murder of the commissioner at Bonthe. On the way they had heard of my predicament, and came to my rescue. They sent me under a safe escort to Freetown, where I had the good fortune to meet Mr. Burtner and his party. These latter miraculously escaped death by seeking temporary shelter at Plantin island, six miles off in midstream, which they reached by means of small boats, taken with them the women and children of the village, whom the men had abandoned in their flight. Two trips were necessary to bring every inhabitant to that island of refuge."

On the Sunday night following, the missionaries set sail in one of the mission boats for Freetown, where they arrived after two days and nights of weary and anxious journeying. Others, however, were not as fortunate. The Rev. J. H. Hughes, of the Wilberforce mission, at Avery Station, forty miles from Sherbro, was killed by the savages. On the same day the Rev. David Wilberforce, his wife and four children, the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Martin, Professor Clemens, and Mr. Wilberforce's mother, had been massacred at Danville Station, a point further north. These were native missionaries who had been educated in