

the departure of the mission vessel from Anelicauhut I had the pleasure of uniting in the bonds of marriage Rev. Mr. McDonald and Miss Geddie, the bride's father assisting in the Aneiteumese language, for the edification of the natives, a large concourse of whom were gathered together to witness the interesting ceremony. We had also the privilege on the following day (Sunday) of having our little George Hugh baptised in the church by Dr. Geddie.

Immediately after we arrived in Anelicauhut Harbour our hearts were made sad by the striking, startling and melancholy intelligence that Mr. Gordon, Missionary on Erromanga, had been recently murdered by some of the heathen natives. We have not yet learned the particulars, but as the "Dayspring" is to call, if practicable, at both stations on Erromanga, we hope that when she returns we shall have a correct account of the whole affair. We have heard different and conflicting versions of matters connected with this murder, and I shall not, therefore, say anything more about it now than that it is pretty evident that Mr. Gordon was killed about the last of March; that he was killed by a Chief, who seemed to be possessed with the idea that Mr. Gordon was the cause of an epidemic which has been carrying off large numbers of the people. We have also been informed on pretty reliable authority that the native christians carried the corpse to Dillon's Bay, where they buried it alongside the graves of his brother and brother's wife and Mr. McNair, and they must have thus carried the body a distance of about 40 miles, an act which certainly speaks well for the christians. It is said moreover that the christians have shot the murderer, and some say three, and others four more heathens who were implicated in the murder. We have thus heard sad news on reaching these shores, but we must not be discouraged. We know that the good Lord can bring good out of evil, light out of darkness, order out of confusion, that He "can make even the wrath of man to praise Him, while the remainder of that wrath he can restrain." The natives of this island seem deeply to sympathize with us in this trying dispensation of Providence. One of the elders who spoke at the prayer meeting held at Anelicauhut on the day that we landed, in referring to the martyrdom of Mr. Gordon, is represented as having addressed his brethren to the following effect: "You see, my friends, that the "Dayspring" has come into our harbour. She has come carrying missionaries of Christ to these dark islands. But as they came to our shores were their hearts glad? Ah! No. Their hearts are heavy because they have heard that one of their number has been struck down by the hands of violence.

But will they grow faint-hearted on this account? Ah! no. They are strong in heart. When they left their own sweet land to carry the good news to us, they said to themselves, we will be brave and never turn back. Let us then be on their side. Let us give them our prayers as they go forth to proclaim the Gospel to those who are in darkness."

As you observe from the date that I am writing this at Mr. Inglis' station. My wife and child and Mrs. McKenzie, who has been staying with us since the departure of the "Dayspring," came round here by water, the day before yesterday.

We are delighted with the grand and lovely aspect of this island. After all the graphic descriptions of the beautiful scenery of the New Hebrides that we have been hearing, it seems to us now that the half had never been told us! Both mission stations on this island are exceedingly beautiful. The premises at Anelicauhut are of course in a state of disrepair at present, not having been occupied by Dr. Geddie's family for a considerable time past. The premises, however, are valuable and inviting. Mr. Inglis says that there is no station equal to Dr. Geddie's in the South Seas.

I am engaged to preach here to-morrow in English. Mr. Inglis is to interpret my sermon to the natives. On Monday, if spared and well, we must return to our own station, and begin to learn to speak to the natives in their own language as soon as we can. We cannot have much influence among the natives so long as we are unable to speak to them in their own tongue.

I was happy to receive your letter of November, through Mr. McKenzie, after his arrival in Melbourne. I received also the October, November and December numbers of the *Record* and two or three *Witnesses*, all of which I read through with the greatest avidity.

I find that we will require a great quantity of goods at our station. I trust, therefore, our friends will not fail to send us along some "mission boxes." I have scarcely any goods here as yet. The boxes that we took with us from Halifax are in Melbourne. The "Dayspring" could not take much more than half the cargo from Melbourne this trip. She is to go up again, however, in August. She will thus make an extra voyage to the colonies this year.

With kindest regards to Mrs. McGregor and the children, in which Mrs. Murray joins me,

I remain yours faithfully,

J. D. MURRAY.

REV. P. G. MCGREGOR.