

tirely suspended, but that this was followed by a remarkable religious awakening—that a spirit of prayer was poured out upon the Churches, and a desire for religious instruction manifested by those who had been hitherto scornful or unconcerned, so that in the course of four months five hundred persons, among whom were some of the most obdurate on the Island, were brought under concern, of whom, at the time of his writing, three hundred remained consistent disciples of Jesus. Let us earnestly pray that it may be so in the present case—that while the ploughshare of trouble is breaking up the fallow ground, the Holy Spirit may cause the good seed of the word to spring up and bear much fruit to eternal glory.

It will be the fault of the Church at home, if she do not so improve this dispensation, as that a blessing shall follow. "Every branch in me that beareth fruit he purgeth it, that it may bring more fruit." We have been privileged to bring forth fruit in the Mission field, but God has seen something that needed to be purged away; and we doubt not, that purified of anything earthly that may have mingled in our efforts, our Church shall yet go forth to greater efforts and to bear more fruit to the praise and glory of God the Father. In the meantime, while humbling ourselves under His mighty hand, let us "have faith in God." We feel assured that there will be no thought anywhere of any relaxation in our efforts—that the universal feeling will be that we have not done enough, and that we must go forward. If we receive God's dealings in this spirit, then we shall yet be visited, as with "the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springeth out of the earth by clear shining after rain." Then we shall see that he has dealt with us as he said of Israel, "that he might humble thee, and that he might prove to do thee good in the latter end."

And now let our prayer be "Return, O Lord, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants. Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us and years wherein we have seen evil. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish though it."

We subjoin the minute of the Foreign Mission Board on this subject :

In view of the truly Christian spirit which breathes throughout these letters, and the very calamitous tidings which they contain, this Board desire first to record their devout gratitude to Jehovah for the long continuance of signal prosperity which has hitherto attended the New Hebrides Mission. Nor would they entertain any doubt that the good hand of God is still upon the mission in this, the hour of deep distress. Some such affliction as that which has now come to pass, in the death of one of the missionaries, has oftentimes been feared, though the blow has at last descended where it was least anticipated. In the decease of their youngest missionary this Board readily recognize the divine monition, "Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils, for wherein is he accounted of." Mr. Johnston's natural abilities, educational acquirements, and above all his genuine piety, eminent zeal and entire devotedness to the missionary life, had awakened high expectation of distinguished usefulness and success. This expectation was greatly confirmed by his universal acceptance among the Churches during his valedictory visits—his safe and speedy transit to the distant scene of labour—his cordial welcome and the favourable testimony from all the mission brethren—his highly encouraging progress towards final location, and the ever watchful Providence which delivered him from frequent perils among the heathen. When this Board accepted his proffered services it was under the strong persuasion that "The Lord gave," now that these services have been withdrawn they have but to say "The Lord hath taken away," and they earnestly seek as for themselves so for all who are afflicted in this affliction the grace which will enable every one to say, "Bless-