

metropolitan of New Zealand. The new Bishop intends to commence a mission on Bank's Islands, a small group, not far from the New Hebrides. He was accompanied by the Rev. L. Pritt who has a prospect of joining the mission, and Mr. Kerr, an officer of the navy, who intends to devote his life to the missionary work. They do not intend to form a permanent settlement at present. They will spend the winter months on the islands, and the summer months in New Zealand. May God bless their additional effort to extend his work in these dark isles of the sea.

DEATH OF MR. AND MRS. GORDON.

The untimely death of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon has been deeply affecting to every member of the mission. I endeavoured to improve the sad event the Sabbath after we heard of it, by preaching on the martyrdom of Stephen. We feel their death even more as they were in the neighbourhood of a small foreign community, and as there was frequent communication between Erromanga and this island. A few months sooner when the disease raged and the danger seemed greatest, there was little or no communication between the islands, being the hurricane season. It is probable that I thought that the danger was over. In his last letter to Mr. Paton dated Feb. 18th, he writes: "I cannot now write of perils. We feel very anxious to hear from you. If you have to flee, Anaitum is of course the nearest and best place to which you can go. Confidence in us is now being restored, and I have to day given medicine to young men who have come for it from Portinia Bay. Mana remains with us for safety from the fury of his enemies. I cannot visit as usual. The persecution cannot be much worse on Tana. I hope the worst is past?" His last letter to me was dated April 20th, just a month before his death, but there was nothing in it to indicate alarm. I have been endeavouring to find out what brought matters to an issue so long after the sickness was over, but I cannot find any special cause.

MASSACRES ON ERROMANGA.

You will be sorry to hear that a white man and a New Caledonia woman who lived with him, were killed on Erromanga since the massacre of our friends. I mention the fact here as the one event

seems to have arisen out of the other. They lived at a place called Norass, which Mr. Gordon had occasionally visited. When the Norass people heard of his death they were angry and said, "why kill the missionary for he was a good man, and did us no injury; but these men (the traders) take our women, destroy our plantations, steal our sandal wood &c.;" and so saying they went and killed the poor man and woman, who perhaps did them no harm, though the class to which they belonged have been guilty of the darkest deeds. The other traders on the island are unmolested but they are more cautious than formerly, and do not go abroad much without fire arms.

ATTEMPT TO VISIT ERROMANGA.

I have not been at Erromanga since Mr. and Mrs. Gordon were killed. I set out in the *John Knox* early in July for that island, but after rolling about in calms and light head winds almost in sight of home we put back to wait for a better time. I had along with me an Erromangan, who lives with me and the teacher who was three years there, and hoped to do something through them. Soon after our return a party of refugees arrived and said that no object would be gained by going until the present excitement subsides a little. I hope to be on Erromanga soon, but it is not probable that any steps will be taken to resume the mission this year.

MR. GORDON'S AFFAIRS.

The affairs of Mr. Gordon have been well looked after by Mr. Milne, as far as I can judge. He took an inventory of everything after his death, and sent most of them off to our agent in Sydney. Some things have come here and the remainder will be sent in a few days. His yearly supply of provisions, &c., have arrived from Sydney, and are now in my hands, but they are all saleable articles and will find a market among the missionaries. Among the things sent to me from Erromanga is Mr. Gordon's journal, which I will forward to his relatives, also his vocabulary of the language, translation of the book of Luke, and other papers, which will be useful to his successors. The book of Luke is finely written out in large hand by Mr. Gordon. The translations of our late brother, show that he was an