

state of feeling (though less in degree) is also quite perceptible in one or two neighbouring villages. Last year we were regarded as everything but good, this year the natives among whom we live, and over whom I hope we are beginning to exert some little influence, invariably affirm that I know nothing of the art of making sickness, that I cannot make famine, hurricanes, &c.

In itinerating on Sabbath day, I have also much more encouragement, *e. g.*—In referring to my last years diary in January 1861, I find that in some villages upon my arrival, every man, woman and child, would clear out of sight, and I would not have an opportunity of speaking to one person. This year while many run away some few remain and listen to the word of God in their own tongue, with some good degree of attention. At another village where I sometimes succeeded in collecting a few individuals, yet had they been ever so willing to receive instruction, they could not hear either the voice of prayer or of praise, owing to the fiendish yells of our enemies, and the incessant noise which they kept up by chopping, and beating with their clubs upon trees, old logs, &c. At that village I have not of late been at all *annoyed* or molested. And to mention but another one, along the outskirts of which I seldom or ever passed, either on Sabbath or week day, without having stones or spears, often both thrown at me. I can now pass and repass, not only along the outskirts, but through that village with some feeling of security, and with no small degree of comfort, when permitted to speak to them of Jesus.

Thus, in contrasting the matters with the corresponding month of last year, we feel ourselves irresistibly constrained to enquire, "Is anything too hard for the Lord." "Truly the Lord hath done great things for us."

While matters are thus apparently encouraging, you are not to infer that our situation is any the less perilous, and that we are in less danger of falling by the hands of those among whom we dwell. No, it is quite the reverse, when nothing is doing, and when no inroads are being made upon the enemies territory, we may get along with comparative safety, but any progress in the right direction is sure to excite the opposition of Satan. We know, however, that God reigns, and from our past experience of his protecting power, we would be encouraged to trust in Him for the future.

MISSIONARY ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY MR. PATON IN ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, CASTLEREACH STREET, SYDNEY, IN CONNECTION WITH A PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE A SHIP FOR THE SERVICE OF THE MISSIONS IN THE NEW HEBRIDES AND LOYALTY GROUP OF ISLANDS.

The Rev. J. G. PATON expressed his cordial thanks for the reception he had met with this evening, and only felt sorry that he was so unworthy of the kindness and approbation evinced towards him by the reverend fathers and brethren he saw around him. His object in appearing before them, as they had been informed, was to plead the cause of the mission with which he was connected, and to give a statement of the work in which, in the providence of God, he had been engaged for a little more than three years. The group of Islands which had been the scene of his labours was called the New Hebrides, rather more than a thousand miles from Sydney, consisting of upwards of thirty islands, with a population of a hundred and fifty thousand, and these, with the exception of the inhabitants of one island, living in a state of the utmost depravity and heathen darkness. Fourteen years ago a missionary was sent there. The daily work of these savages then was fighting among themselves and feasting upon human flesh; the women were perfect slaves, having to do all the labour. They were frequently strangled, and infanticide was common. The grossest practices of savage heathen life were indulged in on the island of Aneityum. It had a population of about three thousand, and these had been led by missionary labour to lay aside their idolatry, their worship of sticks and stones, and to embrace the doctrines of Jesus Christ, and the adoration of the true God. No longer were they to be