

fall, which was a great blessing for us, or we would have been left houseless among savages who are continually thirsting for our blood. Had not our merciful God preserved Mr. Matheson's bedroom and mine, undoubtedly they would also have fallen, for they were the least protected of all our houses. I was drenched, being out in the rain for above four hours, and yet I felt none the worse for it. We have suffered much loss by the falling of our houses; for besides losing the houses, many things are smashed under the ruins, where nearly all my books are and must remain for some time. The sea was round our old house; and men, who appear to be about thirty years of age, say they have seen nothing like it. The yams, fruits, fruit trees, houses, and fences of our Tannese are also levelled with the ground, and their canoes are mostly destroyed. It will be years before our natives recover from the damage to property they have now suffered. The sea swept away several villages, and the natives fled to the open grounds of their plantations on a hill for safety.

Friday was a very calm, delightful day, but on Saturday, at nine A. M., we had a severe squall, which shook our house, and caused the sugar-cane leaves to stand right up, so that the rain poured down upon us. The wind became stronger, the sea again roared and foamed, and our poor house trembled. At dark the wind veered round and fixed in the north, just opposite to our Thursday's heavy wind; and, till after twelve, midnight, it blew as if commissioned to destroy all that had escaped Thursday's strong south wind, so that everything wears a dismal appearance. My house still stands, and this wind did not affect Mr. Matheson's station. We had no hurricane last season, but we have had four this season. Last season we had a very large crop of yams, and of all Tanna fruits more than our natives could destroy; but this season the fruits are all destroyed, and the yams are so injured that they will be few and small; so I fear they have five or six months' starvation before them if the yams were done. This time they have not blamed us for making the winds, &c.

MURDER AND CANNIBALISM ON TANNA.

On the 6th of January one man was killed, and a day or two after another was killed, for bringing the measles to Tanna. On the 16th of February four men were killed, as servants to follow the spirit of the infant of Miaki (our great war chief,) that had just died. For four days they were eager to kill us also; and for three days we had to keep our house locked, and durst not go out, as we were besieged by multitudes of savages, armed and watching an opportunity to take our lives; yet they did not think of breaking our doors or windows to accomplish their purpose, and God graciously preserved us from them. They killed my fowls, cut down my bananas, and broke down my fences, and speared my goats, and tried to burn our house, but failed. On the 1st of March again, our people killed four men, and gave their bodies to chiefs, who feasted on them, and who gave a large fat pig in return for each of the ten bodies received. They have killed and feasted on thirteen or fourteen persons within a few months. I hear nothing of these murders till they are over. Two bodies were presented for a feast to the people of a near village, where we conduct worship on Sabbath; but the people refused, saying now they knew it was wrong to eat human flesh, but another chief was at hand eager to obtain them for a feast. As our people become much excited at these times, and tried often to kill us, Novar the chief advised us all to leave, and go to Aneiteum, and he would go with us; but as I refused, for a few weeks he laid aside his shirt, went naked like the others, painted his face, and attended some of their meetings, and was absent from worship for three Sabbaths; but now he is again friendly as before, and attends to religious duties as previously stated.

We were almost engaged in a public war; but by talking with the chiefs, I have got them all to promise to oppose it, so that I hope it is stopped for the present. They often talk about it, but they seem afraid, and restrained from engaging in public war.

Our people seem more mild and friendly at present, and many of the chiefs have visited me of late.

Inland, many are dying in measles, and consequently the people are all talking bad, and threatening to kill us all, and to banish the worship from benighted Tanna; but God is all sufficient, and our hope is in him.