

they may be as little burdensome as possible. The domestic part of the establishment will be under the charge of a native and his wife. All the help we ask from home is some clothing for our little orphans. We hope to make arrangements for 50 or 60 children at once. Those whom we receive will be regarded as a part of the mission family. Should God bless our efforts we trust that the good influence of the school may be felt on this and the neighbouring islands.

#### ANOTHER HURRICANE.

This island has been the scene of another hurricane this year. It was not so severe as the one which swept over the island last year, but it was very destructive. It was accompanied by rain which fell in such torrents that the rivers were swollen and many of the plantations covered with water and destroyed. The bread fruit, cocoa nut and other trees which were beginning to recover from the effects of last year's hurricane were again blighted, so that for two years in succession there has been scarcely anything in the shape of fruit. The consequence is a great scarcity of provisions, though the distress has not been so great here as on some of the neighbouring islands. The arrow root plantations which the natives had made for their missionary contributions have also suffered much, so that there will be less than we expected this year. The natives, however, display a good measure of submission and christian fortitude under their trials. Many are ready to say, "Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" I have heard of few instances of murmuring during these sifting times, and of no case in which a native has been led back from christianity under the influence of former superstitions.

#### TANA MISSION.

You will regret to hear of the suspension of the Tana mission. Our brethren there have passed through severe trials, but God has preserved them from harm. You will have a full account of matters in Mr Matheson's letters. The "John Knox" has just returned from a visit to Tana. The voyage was performed by Mr Copeland, who was accompanied by Abraham and Nasivi, two teachers who are well known on the island. At Port Resolution, the war which led to Mr Paton's departure is over, and there is peace at present. It lasted for more than two months, and several natives were killed. Mr Copeland visited the mission premises, and found them a scene of desolation. The house is standing, but the doors have been taken off and windows broken, and everything that was left has been stolen. The chief, Muaki, and those who are favorable to christianity are of opinion that the teachers may return, but advise a little delay, until the late excitement entirely subsides. The planting season they think will be a suitable time to return, about four months hence. Abraham, the teacher who has labored so long and faithfully on Tana, is ready to go back again, and we will endeavour to send another along with him. The visiting party were well received at the station where Nasivi formerly labored, on the west side of the island. The chief, Namari-paki, has been a sincere friend since our first intercourse with him. He is willing to receive teachers when we can send them. The plantations left by the teachers who came home last year have been carefully watched by the natives, and everything seems to indicate a kindly feeling towards us. The chief would have visited this island, but the people of his district were preparing for a great feast. There appears to be more fighting and feasting on the islands this year than usual, as the sickness and mortality of the past year interrupted these things, and the natives seem to be making up for the arrears into which they have fallen. We intend to settle teachers on Tana, at the east and west sides of the island at the same time. It is not so clear when the missionaries will be able to resume their labours there.

#### ERROMANGA.

I have not much to report about Erromanga. The natives brought here last year are still with us. In December last a native came here from the north side of the island, where some of the people are friendly. His chief told him not to return without a teacher. He has been on this island ever since and we are much pleased with him. Another Erromangan also arrived here about three months ago. He was a neighbour to the murderers of Mr and Mrs Gordon on his own island. His countrymen here said he was a heathen, but he now attends church and school, behaves himself well, and appears quite at home. The whole num-