

again, though Mr. Geddie advised him to wait till their anger should have subsided. He urged the matter so much that Mr. Geddie reluctantly consented. He went, and was well received, and a very favorable impression was made upon the people." On one occasion, when an attack was meditated by the heathen upon the Christian party, and Mr. Geddie asked the assembled Christians what they proposed to do under the circumstances? Waihit replied, "Our work is peace; we know that it is sinful to fight, and we are not afraid to die for the cause of God." In March, 1851, Waihit lost a child—an only child—a boy about fourteen months old, to whom he was fondly attached. "Mr. Geddie set before his mind the consolations afforded by the gospel in such circumstances, and related the case of David when in circumstances similar to his own. Waihit listened eagerly, and drank in with avidity the consolation. The idea of a happy meeting with his child beyond the grave was balm to his bleeding heart. Afterwards, Mr. Geddie went and visited him in his own house, and found him quite composed, and engaged in unfolding to his heathen countrymen the life and immortality which the gospel brings to light. 'I shall go to him,' he again and again repeated, 'but he shall not return to me.'"

Mr. Murray relates another incident illustrative of this man's excellent character, and of a barbarous practice. "Mr. Geddie heard that a married man was dying, and, knowing well what would follow his death if the people were left to themselves, he hastened to the place where the man was—about a mile from his own house. He found a number of people assembled, among whom were the relatives of the woman, waiting to perform the horrid deed. Mr. Geddie had a very ungracious reception. He was not daunted, however, but spoke to the people plainly of their wickedness, and begged them to desist from their purpose. Evening drew on, and the man was still alive. Mr. Geddie went home, intending to return shortly, and leaving trustworthy persons to watch movements in his absence. He had been but a short time home, when the death wail announced that the man was gone. He was off again instantly, and had the high satisfaction to find that those he had left had succeeded in saving the woman. As soon as the man had expired, the stranglers were about to commence their bloody work, when Waihit, who had joined the Christian party only a few months before, and who, up to this point, had sat a silent spectator, thus addressed the Christians who were present: "Let us not be faint-hearted; we must prevent this deed; let us take courage and be strong." Then turning to the heathen party, he said: "If you kill that woman, we will kill you." Those addressed knew the character of Waihit too well to venture to oppose such aspect from him; so they

desisted. But the difficulty did not end here. The woman herself was bent on being strangled, and cried out that if her relations did not kill her, she would run to the bush and strangle herself. To prevent her carrying out this threat, Waihit took his station at the door of the house, and talked kindly and soothingly to her." The mission in Aniteum abounds with such histories as the above, showing the miseries of heathen idolatry, and the labors undergone by those who have been instrumental in delivering the inhabitants from the darkness of centuries.

In August, 1851, Mr. Geddie wrote: "Of late, several natives have professed to forsake their heathen superstitions, and desire Christian instruction. Among the number is Kapaio, a brother of Nohoat, a thorough savage, and notorious for his wickedness. He is a virulent hater of all white men, and has hitherto been very much opposed to the cause. To the surprise of all, he has lately commenced attending religious services. In a conversation which he lately had with Mrs. Geddie, he said that, when we first came to this land, he regarded us as liars, and, along with others, had stolen our property, and done many other bad things toward us; but that he had narrowly watched our conduct, which was so different from their own, that he was now convinced of the truth of our religion, and the falsity of his own." How exact ought Christians to be in their moral conduct!

Mr. Murray writes concerning this man: "Among the many dangers to which Mr. Geddie was exposed, during the early years of his missionary life, perhaps none was ever more imminent than that which arose from the deadly hatred, which, for a long time, was cherished against him by Kapaio." • • • • •

After watching for months without success for an opportunity of taking Mr. Geddie's life, "he came several evenings after dark to Mr. Geddie's garden, armed with his club, and hid himself under a bush, in the hope that Mr. Geddie would go outside the house. Mr. Geddie went out one night, and passed close by the bush under which Kapaio was concealed. Now the critical moment had come; the long desired opportunity was found. Kapaio grasped at his club, that he might spring upon his victim and fell him to the ground; but, lo! his hands forgot their cunning—they are powerless—a strange sensation comes over him, and all thoughts of injuring the man of God are at an end."

The turning point in the evangelization of Aniteum was arrived at when the heathen party, daily diminishing, in 1851, set fire to Mr. Geddie's house. Mrs. Geddie was aroused during the night by the smell of fire, and escaped with her two children. The chief did everything in his power to detect the incendiaries and protect the missionary.