

of whom met a violent death. He was killed to revenge the death of a party of Aniwans, who were killed on this island more than half a century ago. Our teachers continued to labour after this disaster, and the overthrow of heathenism was the happy result. When the missionary settled on the island two years ago, he found a humble place of worship built on the ground which from time immemorial had been sacred to the heathen deities, and a pile of stone gods also, which the people had thrown to the moles and bats. Mr. Paton is assisted at present by one Ancityum native, but complains of want of help, and has made an urgent request for more teachers.

ERROMANGA.

The ship reached this island on the night of October the 7th, and we anchored in Dillon's Bay. I landed, and found Mr. and Mrs. McNair, well and in good spirits. The number who favour christianity is on the increase, and the recent death of a hostile chief has weakened the enemies of the cause. Mrs. McNair's presence attracts the women, and the mission premises wear a very domestic appearance. The arrival of the Dayspring seemed to attract a number of visitors, some of them from a long distance, among whom was the man who killed the late Mr. Gordon. The missionaries on the island think that he has not yet given satisfactory evidence of repentance for his great crime, and therefore I took no notice of him. He certainly looked less abashed than I expected to find him.

A serious case of man-stealing occurred the day before our arrival, at a place called Norass, ten or twelve miles from the bay. An Australian slaver hove to off this place, sent a boat ashore, and nine natives were induced to go off to the ship, under pretence of giving them pigs. The men were no sooner on board than they were forcibly detained and carried away. The friends of the kidnapped natives followed the vessel to Dillon's Bay, and reported the case to Mr. McNair, who made strenuous efforts to procure their release but without success.

On the morning of October the 9th we were off Portinia Bay, the station of the Rev. J. Gordon. The captain did not think it prudent to anchor, as the wind seemed inclined to blow on the land, so the vessel lay off and on. The most of the day was spent in landing Mr. Gordon's things, which we had brought from his former station. The landing place is bad and about half a mile from the mission-house. This was my first visit to this part of the island, and I was much pleased with it. The scenery around is very beautiful, but this place does not possess the advantages of Dillon's Bay.

Mr Gordon has recently built a neat and comfortable house, which he now occupies. Some natives who were under instructions at his former station are now living with him, and these form the germ of a christian community, which will no doubt increase. The population is small, but the natives are friendly. There is, however, a populous district not many miles distant, to which Mr. Gordon will extend his labours. I was much struck with the place in which meetings are held at present, being a natural cave capable of holding thirty or forty persons.

A case of man-stealing occurred at this place also the day before our visit. A boat from the same vessel which had taken the natives on the other side of the island called, and those on board enticed a native to go into it. In this case a promise of tobacco was the bait held out. As soon as the man knew his danger he struggled to jump overboard and swim ashore, but was forcibly carried away. The natives were much excited, and threaten to fire into the first boat that may visit their shores. This slaver made the circuit of the island, and could we follow in her track, I have no doubt but similar tales of violence and outrage would meet us everywhere.

The island of Erromanga is about the same size as Tanna, and is separated from it by a strait eighteen miles wide. It is less fertile than some of the other islands, but the natives can with moderate labour raise abundance of food. The population has been much reduced of late years, and probably does not exceed 3000 or 4000 souls. No island in these seas possesses a darker and more eventful history. The martyr blood shed on it will make it a spot of tender and imperishable interest to the Church of Christ. The mission on this island has had no ordinary trials, but things are in a hopeful state at present. The Erromangans have a strong claim on our christian sympathy. They have suffered unparalleled injustice, outrage and cruelty from lawless traders. The best recompense we can now make for the injuries inflicted on them is to give them the gospel, which brings peace on earth and good will toward men.

(To be continued.)

TRINIDAD MISSION.

Letter from Rev. Mr. Morton.

IERE VILLAGE, August 6th 1869.

Rev. and Dear Brother,—Besides meetings on Estates during the week, I have had service every Sabbath afternoon, for the last two months, with the coolies in the church here. We tried this toward the