

When some foreigners have died they have made mourning for them, while they were ready to kill others. It does not require much worldly wisdom to acquire worldly influence among them, of which you have an illustration in the case of Sir James Brooke of Sarawak. But, as we seek a higher object, we by and by appear to them as disturbers of their false peace, "who turn the world upside down." In this state of things it appears wise to imitate our Great Master in "going about doing good." In this manner we make way for the entrance of the word, which by the Spirit enlightens and makes free. We now see several instances of reformation about us, but no case, I fear, of real conversion. Pray, oh pray, that another year may not pass away without hearing of converts to Christ on Erromanga.

OPPOSITION TO THE GOSPEL AND ITS CAUSES.

During the latter part of our second year of labor several heathen tribes, who are still heathen in every sense of that term, began to appreciate the temporal advantages—by medicine, clothing and otherwise—and of course soon filled our school-house on the Sabbaths to please us; and more than twenty of them gave some assistance in putting up the frame of a church. Then came the testing time—another sandal wood establishment—cold rains and sickness—shame, confusion and hatred by the reading of the Law of Moses—the wounding of their pride by receiving such abominable creatures as women into the worship of God*—the revival of the old Tanna doctrine by the opposing chiefs and its propagation with double zeal—war at the north end, and among those who helped at a church for awhile—all followed in quick succession. In all it was easy to recognize the workings of the enemy of souls; and withal that God reigneth. War among those who professed to be *lotu* and their return to heathen practices, and the influence of the Tannese upon the Erromangans, still present great obstacles in the way of the gospel. The deaths at Anciteum and in the mission and sickness of missionaries are kept before the Erromangans. I may just state that one of the last young men who has been over from here, who could read, has returned and thrown away the word of God.

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF JEHOVAH OUR GOD RECOGNIZED.

The Devil and his angels could not but rejoice with fiendish joy over the state of matters here of late. In such circumstances God always vindicates the honor of his great name, and he has done so most signally here, causing his enemies to acknowledge his power and his majesty. I can only give some instances of his judgments. The tribe that forsook the house of God to fight lost their head in a few days by a sudden attack of illness. They carried him towards the mission premises and ran for me, but he died before I could afford him any help; but I was instrumental in saving the life of his brother. A fine young man was shot dead and a considerable number badly wounded, and are still suffering from their wounds, as they will not undergo an operation for the abstraction of broken arrows when they come to me with them. These Erromangans are "mild and docile" when they are sleeping, smoking tobacco and not fighting, which is not very often. If they ever become docile, I believe our Master Jesus must have the honor of making them so by his most precious gospel. This tribe is otherwise afflicted, and acknowledges that it is the hand of God, because they have forsaken his worship.

Some who have openly profaned the Sabbath and despised the authority of Jehovah have died in dreadful agony. One young man requested to be shot. The head chief of Dillon's Bay made his annual feast on the Sabbath, and the chief for whom it was made died on the day which was first appointed for the feast. Another chief then held his feast on a Monday. Again, a few weeks ago, another party near to us, which forsook the worship of God by the influence of the chiefs, went to a heathen feast at Roviliow (Portenia Bay), and while gone they profaned the Sabbath and spake lightly of the ordinances of God, if not of God himself; they returned on a Saturday evening with their only two children, much beloved, especially one of them, and they carried back two gods with them, images of the moon, and early on Sabbath morning these two children died, and Dil-

* The men were willing that the women should sit outside or behind backs—not otherwise.