

went to Port Resolution, on Tana, to finish the house there, the skeleton of the other being meanwhile taken over in the schooner. About the middle of October the work was so advanced that it was thought proper to occupy the stations, and a meeting of the mission was accordingly held to arrange about our location. Mr. Paton was appointed to Port Resolution, Mr. Matheson to Umairarekar, about fourteen miles distant, and I to both places for the hurricane season. As dwelling-houses only had been erected at both places, it was necessary for us to put some other buildings to serve as storehouses, workshops, &c., and to put the ground about the premises into order. In work of this kind, and in doing what little we could to impress the natives favourably toward us and our message, the early months of this year were passed. All went well, till some time after Mrs. Paton's confinement. About three weeks after that occurrence, in the end of February, she began to suffer from diarrhoea, and to manifest occasional delirium. These affections continued to increase till her death, which took place very suddenly, the immediate cause apparently being the rupture of a blood-vessel. Her infant lingered till the 20th of March. About this time Mr Matheson's health, which had been precarious even in Nova Scotia, became much worse. About the middle of April the "John Knox" resumed her visits, and returned to Aneiteum without delay with the sad intelligence. Messrs. Inglis and Geddie lost no time in coming to Tana to comfort the bereaved, and to remove Mr. Matheson. At a meeting held at Port Resolution at that time, I was asked to take the superintendence of Mr. Inglis's station during his absence in England for two years, to carry the New Testament in this language through the press. At first I was quite at a loss what answer to return. After being allowed time to think over the subject in my own mind, and to speak on it with my brethren, I consented,—more with the hope of doing good indirectly than directly. I know how much the Church desires a visit of Mr. and Mrs. Inglis; and I judge from the interest manifested in Mr. Paton and myself, that great good is likely to result both to the Church and to the mission. I am not ignorant of my unfitness for the work I have undertaken, and of the respon-

sibility of the place that I am to occupy. Perhaps it may at first sight seem to be a waste of time to spend two years in acquiring a language and becoming acquainted with a people, and then to leave and go to strangers speaking another tongue. I have, however, no scruples on this point. The language of this island is a sort of indispensable acquirement in the missionaries here.—Wherever you are settled, you will have natives of this island with you, who will be comparatively valueless without a means of communication between you and them. Should I ever be spared to make a translation of a part of the word of God, or to assist in doing this, the version of this island will be of considerable value. In accordance with the above arrangement, I left Tana about seven weeks ago, and have been since living under the roof of Mr. and Mrs. Inglis. From all that I have seen of them they are worthy of the high opinion entertained by the Church and yourself regarding them. Their hearts are in the work, and their love for the Church that has sent them forth has not cooled by their residence at a distance. Mr. Inglis is a thorough Scotchman,—cautious and persevering. He does nothing of importance without remeditation, and never jumps at a conclusion. He is slow in his deliberations, but full of life in the execution, doing what he does with all his might. He is naturally of a happy and buoyant turn of mind, and disposed to look more at the bright than the dark side of events:—in this way his presence has a cheering effect on all about him. He is pre-eminently a man of order, having a place for every thing, and every thing in its place. His mind is well stored with a most exact knowledge of religious and other subjects. Though for many years he has been far from home, and his sources of information are not the most complete, he is not ignorant of what has been doing in Church and State. He can read human nature, and adapt himself to all with whom he has to deal, whether white or black.—He is an agreeable and instructive companion, one whose example stimulates those who see it to imitation, and in all respects a model missionary. In her own department Mrs. Inglis equally excels.

The "John Williams," in which they intend going home, accompanied by one