

we were busily engaged in collecting material, with which to build a Church. Previous to the hurricane we were building our own house, and had one room completed, to which we intended to have added two others. But after the Church was blown down we suspended all our own house building operations, and concluded first to rebuild the Church, after which if spared, we hope to complete our own;—for two reasons. In the first place, we had no house in which to worship on the Sabbath day, and secondly, as example must go before precept on Tana, we thought it well to let the natives see, that God's work was the work in which we are engaged, and that he must have a house on Tana, even though we should not have one or at least not until afterwards. The old Church formerly stood on the site first selected for the mission premises, but we purpose building near the house, and have bought a beautiful spot, upon which to build.

We have nearly a sufficient quantity of wood cut, a good part of it carried to the spot, and arrangements made for the carrying of the remainder. The Lime stones are all at the pit and nearly enough wood with which to burn them.

Being thus engaged in getting Lime, wood, &c., I have necessarily been much from home during the past month, and have had many favorable opportunities of seeing and speaking to persons about their souls, which I could not otherwise have enjoyed, and though the name of Jesus sounded strangely on their ears and to them the offers of salvation were strange words, we hope that something of what they heard, may by the blessing of God produce the desired effect. It is however exceedingly difficult to communicate divine truth to this people, as the dialectic differences of the language present apparently insurmountable obstacles in the way of the spread of the Gospel. How or when these mountains of difficulties are to be removed is known only to God; but we know that they must be removed in some shape or form, before the word of the Lord will have free course, run speedily and God be glorified in the salvation of the Taneses.

Had we the word of God to put into the hands of this people, or even to read to them, as they cannot read for themselves, I think the day would soon dawn, when God's praying people would be

cheered by the assurance, that Tana's benighted sons and daughters have at length complied with the command, "kiss ye the Son"—yea the day when the Lord shall betroth the n to himself, in righteousness, in judgment, in loving kindness, in mercy and in faithfulness—when he will have mercy upon those who had not obtained mercy, and will say to them which were not his people, Thou art my people, and they shall say, Thou art my God.

Yours truly,

J. W. MATHESON.

Rev. James Bayne.

P. S.—Have you all made up your minds not to write to us until you send out another missionary? I have not had a line from a father or brother in the Church, since Mr. Johnston came out; and really I cannot very well understand why we have so little correspondence.

TANA, July 9, 1861.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—Though our letters this year have contained nothing of an encouraging nature, yet none have contained intelligence so sad, or perhaps more unexpected than those which we have now an opportunity of forwarding. You may, or you may not have heard from other sources of the death of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, both of whom were cruelly murdered by the natives of Eromanga, some time last month. As all our information respecting that sad tragedy is second handed, I need not write what you have doubtless received from other quarters.

The reports connected with the whole affair, are, as you may naturally suppose, very conflicting—some of them may be true, others are doubtless false. The day of judgment alone will decide which are true and which are false.

As Mr. Geddie had proposed that I should accompany him to Eromanga, in order to obtain what information we can upon the subject, I say nothing of the reports which are in circulation, until we have an opportunity of sifting them as best we can; though I may say it is in my opinion one of those subjects, at the bottom of which we will never get. In native evidence no confidence can be placed; and on the investigation of this matter, we are in a great measure dependent on native evidence. Something must however be done; perhaps my