

did it, the party with whom the burning of the Church originated seem themselves to have been startled by the enormity of their crime, and the awful hurricane which swept over the island a week after, and the great mortality were regarded by them and by others, as indications of God's anger against the island for the deed. *Nihang* and the small party connected with him now attend the means of grace, and most of them have received books and come to our schools. Thus Satan often defeats himself in his plans for the destruction of God's work.

REBUILDING OF THE CHURCH.

You will be glad to hear that the Church is nearly rebuilt again. As soon as the natives began to recover, I called a meeting to know what their views and wishes were. The unanimous voice was, build and do it without delay. I fixed on the following week as the time to commence operations, but many were off to the bush next morning to cut wood. The work has gone on as rapidly as I could direct it. I have taken the opportunity of remedying some architectural defects of the former building. We have raised the walls a little, and arched the centre windows in the two sides and ends. The whole building is much superior to what it was. Another week will about complete the native labour on it. I trust that our poor people may be as earnest in improving the means of grace, as in preparing a sanctuary for them.

VALUE OF NATIVE TEACHERS.

I read with surprise and regret some remarks which appeared in the *Missionary Register* about the native teachers on these islands. They must have been written under some strange and unhappy impulse. It will perhaps satisfy you to know that the men who have been so unjustly assailed enjoy the confidence of the missionaries at large. Our mission is in a great measure indebted to these humble men for its existence and much of its prosperity; and if they have faults, they ought to be dealt with in the spirit of forbearance and love. If these men as a class were not what they profess to be, it is hard to account for their readiness to encounter every danger and submit to every trial, for the sake of Christ and his cause. The fact ought to be known to the Church that our risks and

privations are small compared with theirs. It is they who lead the way in the battle against heathenism, and it is our honour to follow. Several teachers from Rarotonga and Samoa have fallen by the hand of violence on these islands, and Aneiteum has already given two of her children to the noble army of martyrs. I believe that the presence of native teachers on Tana, has contributed much to the safety of our brethren on that island. During the late excitement they were often urged by the Taneese to leave, and for what reason they well knew. But Abram the teacher who lives with Mr. Paton said to them: "I am a chief on my own island and do not live here from necessity. I will not desert the missionary. If you kill him we will die together." The work on these islands cannot be carried on either extensively or safely, without a large amount of native agency. I will close this subject by an extract from a sermon preached by Bishop Selwyn of New Zealand, before the University of Cambridge. He has visited these islands occasionally for the last thirteen years, and knew most of our teachers. Speaking of the very class of men in question, he says "Many of these islands I visited in their days of darkness, and therefore I can rejoice in the light that now bursts on them, from whatever quarter it may come. I feel that there is an episcopate of love as well as of authority; and that these simple teachers, scattered over the wide ocean, are objects of the same interest to me that Apollos was to Aquila. I find them instructed in the way of the Lord, fervent in spirit, speaking and teaching diligently the things of the Lord; and if in any thing they lack knowledge, it seems to be our duty to expound to them 'the way of God more perfectly;' and to do this as their friend and brother, not as having dominion of their faith, but as helpers of their joy."

VISIT OF BISHOP PATTERSON.

We had a visit in May from the Rev. J. C. Patterson, who has been ordained a missionary Bishop for the South Sea Islands. He is son of the Right Hon. Sir John Patterson late one of Her Majesty's Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench. He is a young man of amiable disposition, and apostolic spirit, and will ably supply the place of our former friend Bishop Selwyn, who is now Me-