

sons and daughters are rallying around the cross of Jesus, that one is becoming a thousand and a small one a great nation.

Yours truly,

J. W. MATHESON.

Rev. James Bayne.

TANA, January 14th, 1862.

*Rev. and Dear Sir,*—Your interesting letter under date April 1861, I received on the 2nd inst. Many thanks for the minute details which it contained of the consummation of the Union, and the happy consequences likely to result from it.

From the Minutes of Synod in 1860, I see that now in your united capacity, you are resolved to unfurl the banner of the cross more widely, both in the South Seas, and also in Turkey; may God grant that that resolution may be speedily and successfully carried out.

We are now in the midst of the rainy season, as it is generally called out here—but indeed this season has so many names, all of which seem equally appropriate—that if we call it the rainy—the hurricane—or the unhealthy season, it comes to the same thing. The last eight days have been very wet—nearly one unbroken pour—accompanied at intervals with thunder, lightning, and a pretty stiff breeze from the north-north-west. Had this been our first year on Tana, we might have been inclined to regard the recent blow as a hurricane, not so, however, after our last years introduction to hurricanes. The quantity of rain which fell during the past week, seems entirely unprecedented upon this island, as none of our natives remember having seen rain falling in torrents so incessantly and so long a time. As a natural consequence from such a storm, many of our poor natives are at present suffering from coughs, colds, &c.

You will be pleased to learn that matters are again beginning to look up with us on Tana, and that our prospects are (I think) becoming more than ever cheering. We still however, speak only of the work externally—but we cannot fail to regard the external changes, which we from time to time witness, as so many indications that the day is soon to dawn, when they will be succeeded by spiritual blessings.

Since the first attempts were made to introduce the Gospel to this island, the Tanese have regarded Christianity as the harbingers of famine, disease and death. During the past year, it would appear, humanly speaking, as if their fears had been more than realized; and as if their predictions had even been more than fulfilled. The very things which they feared, did indeed overtake them; and from them, viz., famine, disease and death, they have suffered to an alarming extent.

Though, I would not be too sanguine of success, yet, that God had permitted us to stand by our posts during the past year, and to witness the desolations which famine, disease, and death have wrought, and are still working, is of itself proof-positive, that God's time to favour benighted Tana has fully come.—Though we stood by our posts, we did not, we could not hold our ground; any advance which we had previously hoped had been made in the right direction, was altogether, if not more than lost. The tendency of the mission was downward—not upward, onward, and forward, as we could have desired.

The missionary—the new religion—the mission house,—and premises, were universally regarded as the cause of all their trouble; and how to get rid of such grievances, was often a serious question with them. It was truly a sore, a trying, yea, a sifting time, through which the Tana Mission was last year called to pass, and that we were brought safely through it, can only be fully realized by adopting the language of one of old, and saying—"It was the Lord's doing, and is marvellous in our eyes."

The natives in this village have now, however, more confidence in us than they ever before manifested—and are also more willing to believe that our mission is a mission of love—that we are here not seeking our own or theirs, but themselves, and that their souls salvation was the one grand object, by which we were actuated in leaving home, and coming here to dwell among them. A similar