

fied that God only has the power of killing and making alive. To admit the latter would be a very serious infringement upon the rights of a Tanna man, and a robbing him of a glory to which he feels himself justly entitled. I have just heard that they do not expect the child to survive to-day, and Namaka has suspected another young man in addition to the former, both of whom he has ordered to be killed upon the death of his child. This son, if spared, was to have succeeded him as chief, consequently his death will cause more excitement than if he had only been a common child.

The attendance at worship on Sabbath day is steadily increasing. Yesterday there were twenty males present, which was an increase of some four or five upon any preceding Sabbath. In the morning we have worship at our own station, after which I itinerate during the remainder of the day. In going inland we have no stated places of meeting. Sometimes we go in one direction, and, if we are sufficiently fortunate to come upon some three or four persons unobserved, have a short service with them, and proceed until we come to some other village or fall upon some other party—all of whom we generally find as busily engaged on the Lord's day as on any other day in the week—some fencing, some housebuilding, some preparing yam mounds, &c. The shore women spend the Sabbath fishing and the inland women making plantations. This is still the day of small things, but in the midst of our trials and our difficulties we have our encouragements and our hopes. The work is of God and must succeed. Had we but two or three devoted teachers—God-fearing men—persons capable of sowing the good seed and of watering it by their example as well as by their precept—discouraging though the past has been, we would hope that, by the blessing of God, brighter and better days may soon dawn upon this benighted people, and that even upon dark Tanna blessed Jesus may soon see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied.

You would, I presume, naturally infer that several teachers have already been labouring on this island, but you must remember that the term teacher out here differs very widely from that given by the majority of Lexicographers, and, perhaps, if some of the terms employed—such as teacher, native agency, institution, convert, and professedly Christian—were understood by readers as defined by writers, those who read would be better prepared to form more perfectly correct ideas of the lamentable condition of this people, and those who in the providence of God may yet visit these dark isles of the sea would experience less disappointment, they would come prepared to find that these Ethiopians have not as yet begun to stretch out their hands to God and that these isles have yet to begin to learn to wait for God's law. The following is the New Hebridean definition of the term teacher:—A man who leaves home, goes to a heathen land, builds a house, makes a plantation, assists a missionary in building a house, and sets a good example before the natives. There have been seven families from Aneiteum living on this side of Tanna, with their relations, all of whom before leaving home have probably been requested to fulfil the above duties. Four of those families have recently gone home. Two others have left their stations and are at present living on the mission premises, and one only remains at his station. Consequently nothing has yet been done in the way of establishing schools, and our prospects in that respect are anything but cheering. Many thanks for the copies of the "Witness" sent by Mr. Johnston. The bale of goods came safely to hand, for which we feel truly grateful to the donor, or donors, though unknown. The medicines, too, were a very valuable acquisition to our stock, the selection could not have been better, and we trust that the many kind friends who have thus voluntarily contributed to the supply of our wants may find in their own experience that it is indeed more blessed to give than to receive. Trusting that we still have an interest in your prayers and in the prayers of dear friends,

I remain, yours truly,

J. W. MATTHESON.

ENCOURAGEMENT: A CONGREGATION OFFERS TO RAISE HALF THE SALARY OF A MISSIONARY.

We are at times apt to feel discouraged when we contemplate the great work which is before us as a Church, and the numerous demands that press upon our