

DEATH OF MRS MATHESON.

You will regret to hear that the mission has sustained another loss by the death of Mrs Matheson. We were somewhat prepared for this event by her previous illness. I must refer you to her husband's letter for all details about her sickness, &c. She died rejoicing in the Saviour whom it was her delight to serve when alive. None could converse with her on a dying bed without saying, "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his." This world had no attractions to her, and her desire was to depart and to be with Christ which is far better. If she at times appeared willing to continue a little longer on earth, it was only for the sake of the poor heathen around her. Her missionary career was short, but it was one of much interest. Few women have been placed in more trying circumstances on the mission field, but she never complained of her lot. She was the only white female on the island of Tana, and she laboured among a dark hearted, deeply degraded and savage people. No member of the mission stood so high in the estimation of the natives, and her knowledge of the language, kind disposition, and efforts for their good, gave her much influence among them. Few men would be disposed to risk their lives among the natives where she resided, and yet she never had occasion to complain of rudeness from them. She was not spared to see the fruits of her labours, but we may hope that they were not altogether in vain. May God raise up other instruments for his work, equally devoted to the best of causes.

WORK ON ANEITEUM.

I have but little to report of the work on this island. It continues, however, to progress in the right direction. We have not indeed been favored with those remarkable outpourings of the Holy Spirit which have of late been experienced in many parts of the christian world, but there is good reason to hope that not a few are seeking the "one thing needful." The means of grace are well attended, and the natives, if not rapidly, are by degrees increasing their knowledge of divine things. Crimes are of uncommon occurrence, and the order which prevails on the island forms a pleasing contrast to the unchecked abominations of former years. There is still a small party attached to the traders who live regardless of religion. Some of them do indeed attend the means of grace, but they are never likely to become good members of society. There is more hope of the heathen, than of those who are under the influence of our own countrymen on these islands. I am glad to say that our work which was suspended by the sickness and mortality of the past year goes on as before. The fearful scourge which swept so many into the grave has left indelible traces of its progress everywhere; but our hope and comfort is that many who died knew the Saviour and trusted in him. We have recently made up the statistics of the past year, and find the numbers who died of measles and dysentery on this island to be about 1200. What an account will those monsters have to render at the last tribunal, who have knowingly, and we have reason to believe designedly, brought so much suffering and death among an unsuspecting and unoffending people. They are murderers in the sight of God, and ought to be regarded as such by man.

PROPOSED ORPHAN SCHOOL.

The state of the rising generation on this island causes us much solicitude. Parents who have themselves been brought up without religious instruction and discipline, are not in circumstances to train up their children in the way that they should go. This consideration alone ought to make the young objects of our special sympathy and care. But in addition to this the number of orphans is very great. This has been caused in part by the great mortality of the past year. I have just examined Mrs Johnston's school list which contains the names of 50 scholars, under 12 years of age. Of that number 6 children have both parents alive, 26 have one parent living, and 18 are orphans. This may be regarded as a fair representation of the state of things throughout the island. We have resolved therefore to establish an orphan school without delay. The subject has been mentioned to the natives, and they are now vigorously at work making a building for the purpose. The school will be under Mrs Johnston's charge, and she will be assisted by a native teacher. The relations of the scholars will aid them with food, but we expect them to cultivate plantations of their own, that