

worship of God. It would thus appear, that God has not forsaken Erromanga. Why should his servants forsake it? So long as such manifest tokens of the divine presence continue to attend the Mission, why should there be any backwardness to follow the cloudy pillar. The fiery judgment hath indeed gone forth, but the Lord hath also descended in the flame, and his words, though all quickening with holy chastisement, are yet words of peace and encouragement. Mr. Gordon fell on Erromanga on the 20th day of May, 1861, having been 6 years in the service of the Board. Full particulars of the horrible tragedy appeared in the November *Record*. On receipt of the melancholy tidings, the Board adopted a minute, which was published, expressive of their estimate of their missionary's character, and of the great loss which their Mission had sustained. In the midst of the stunning shock which this massacre occasioned, it was truly refreshing to receive from our coadjutors in Scotland, from various sister Churches in these Provinces, and from other christian denominations, the ready expression of christian sympathy. Not the least welcome and cheering, because the least expected, was the expression of sympathy tendered by the Rev. Mr. Brewster, in the name of the Methodist preachers' weekly meeting, Halifax. In compliance with the instructions of the Board, the Secretary responded to this fraternal condolence, assuring Mr. Brewster and his associates, that the sympathy thus expressed had proved very grateful to the Board, who could not but discern therein a practical illustration of the scripture testimony, concerning the members of Christ's body, "That they have the same care one of another, and whether one member suffer all the members suffer with it, or one member be honoured all the members rejoice with it."

A similar response was in like manner given to the Committee of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Scotland, conveying to them the assurance that the christian sympathy which they had so cordially expressed, was warmly appreciated, and all the more so as coming from those who have for so many years been their active and efficient coadjutors in the New Hebrides Mission, and to no inconsiderable extent also their fellow partakers in their chastening providences. Ample testimony is borne on all hands to the truly christian character and high missionary talents of Mr. Gordon. All his brother missionaries speak in the same strain of admiration, and this tribute of commendation is fully borne out by more disinterested parties.

ANEITEUM.

Aneiteum now presents its claims to our attention, not indeed as a field where missionary life has been imperilled or destroyed, but as the scene of greater trials than any which have befallen the Mission there since the period of its first evangelization. In addition to the hurricane and pestilence, the devouring fire has wrought much desolation. Incendiarism reached the new Church and school house, and though the crime was committed by a few beathen, yet not without the complicity of the "employees" of the sandal wood establishment. The natives who are all christianized in outward conduct with the exception of this little remnant of eight or ten miserable creatures, grieved more over the loss of their new Church and school house than of their food or even the mortality which the deadly disease had caused. The Aneiteumese in common with the inhabitants of all other evangelized islands, view all calamities as the fruit of sin, and though this opinion may sometimes lead them to mistaken views of christian character as it did the friends of Job, it is a much safer guide to new born christianity than the stout-hearted unbelief which grows up in older christian communities, with the profession that affliction comes alike to all, the righteous and the wicked, that no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them. Notwithstanding the extraordinary loss of life, amounting to from 1,100 to 1,200, that is nearly one-third of the entire population, the Aneiteumese have exhibited the most christian spirit. They have humbled themselves under the mighty hand of God, and the promise will be ensured to them: "God will exalt you in due time"—These afflictions have had (says Mr. Geddie) a solemnizing effect on many, and more than usual attention has been given to religion. A desire to make a public profession is becoming very general. At the October communion 19 adults were baptized and took their seats for the first time at the Lord's table, and the candi-