

tot robbers in the year 1825, have the Committee and the friends of Missions had to deplore a calamity of the character of that which they have now the sorrow to place on record. The REV. JAMES STEWART THOMAS WAS KILLED BY THE ASSAGAIS OF AN ASSAILING PARTY OF AMAPONDA KAFFIRS, at Beecham-Wood, on Saturday the 14th of June last.

“Until a formal investigation of the causes which led to this lamentable result can be instituted, we can only lay before the friends of Missions the particulars which have reached us, stating at the same time that we have no reason to doubt the accuracy of the information supplied by Mr. Charles White, the Assistant Missionary, who hastened to the scene of the outrage as soon as he heard of it, assisted to bury our martyred brother, and endeavoured to minister consolation to the bereaved widow and family. We give, also, the letter of Mr. Impey, of Graham's-Town, and the extracts from the colonial papers which refer to the subject, and substantially confirm Mr. White's narrative.

“Mr. Thomas had arrived only a week previous at Beecham-Wood, to commence the organization of a Mission at that station, as being more advantageously situated than Clarkebury, from which he removed, for the benefit of the surrounding Kaffir population. Some of the people resident on the Morley station had joined Mr. Thomas at Beecham-Wood; but it so happened that the Morley people some time previously had been called out by the British Resident to join in an attack on a division of the army of Damas, a son of Faku, returning from a tribal war with the Amampondosi, in which attack two or three men were killed by the Morley people, and about one hundred and sixty head of cattle captured.

“This most unwarrantable departure from the general rule, that natives residing on Mission-stations are not to take part in tribal disputes, appears to have led to the fatal consequences we now deplore. Damas, it is said, remonstrated against Mr. Thomas receiving to Beecham-Wood the Morley people who had been engaged in this affair; and his followers were heard to say that they would not rest until they had taken the life of the Native Teacher, who had led on the attack. The Government awarded compensation to the Chief Faku for the act of their agent; and avised the Umdumbi, whom the Morley people had assisted, to pay a fine for their share of the outrage, which they refused to do. The Government officer, finding his advice rejected, said he should leave it for Faku to settle with them. He had only left the neighbourhood three days, when Faku's people made an attack on that part of Beecham-Wood which was occupied by the Morley people, and captured a number of cattle. In this attack one native was killed and five wounded; and a little girl unfortunately burnt to death. Mr. White remonstrated with Damas on hearing the report of this affair; but Damas refused to return the captured cattle, giving as his reason the injury he had received from the Umdumbi, with whom the Morley people had identified themselves; stating at the same time that he had no quarrel with the other settlers at Beecham-Wood, and would not hurt one of them. One of his petty Chiefs, however, not having the same knowledge, or not being influenced by the same views, conducted his men to make an attack on the Mission-station. Damas, hearing of it, sent a messenger desiring them to return; but unfortunately the messenger arrived too late: the fight had begun by an attack on the Mission cattle-kraal. Mr. Thomas, hearing the alarm, went to the cattle-fold, taking with him the artizan, hoping that the assailing party would respect the character of a Missionary. He discovered his mistake; but it was too late; he was struck in the back by an assagai, and, receiving several other wounds, was carried home, and died within two hours!

“Mr. Jenkins, of Palmerton, whose most interesting letter we published last month, met Damas at Buntingville, Mr. White's station, on the 24th June, ten days after this sad disaster; to whom Damas professed, most earnestly, his deep regret for the occurrence, and his willingness to make any reparation in his power, even to the death of the man that killed Mr. Thomas, and the petty Chief who led on the attack. There can be no doubt that the Chiefs Damas and Faku are sincere in their expressions of regret; and that greater care will be exercised by them in time to come in all movements which may affect the Missions commenced in their country.