

late been much more friendly than he has been since the measles. Indeed for a time he was one of our most inveterate enemies; and humanly speaking we suffered almost everything but death from his hand. Though Kati is only a man and though we are not to put our trust in princes, still I must confess that we breathe much more freely when assured that he is our friend, than when he was our enemy. He has not yet come back to church on Sabbath day, but comes about occasionally during the week. He says that he is going to attend shortly—that he used to like our religion until God sent the measles here, and then his heart became very bad to God and to the worship—but that his heart is again getting soft, all of which he requested me to tell God, as he, in common with all the Tanese, imagine that God is indebted to us for all the knowledge which he has of them, and that until we came here, God never knew that there was such a place as Tana, nor such a people as the Tanese. Consequently we get credit for a great deal more than we deserve.

Yours truly,  
J. W. MATHESON.

Rev James Bayne.

TANA, Nov. 1st, 1861.

REV. AND DEAR BROTHER,

The first of Nov. 1861 reminds me that it is three years to day since we entered upon your service on this dark island. Having written you monthly during the past year, in writing my annual report, I find that it must simply consist of a summing up of some of the events to which reference has already been made.

By the good hand of God upon us we have been permitted to go out and to come in among this people; and though the amount of success which we have to report may appear small, still all things considered, we cannot but raise the voice of thanksgiving and say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

As you may naturally suppose, the longer we live among a heathen people, the better do we become acquainted with their manners, customs and practices—the more prominent appear the mountains of difficulties with which we have to contend—the more do we learn of the awful deceit of the human heart—and the more forcibly do we feel that the bringing of such a degraded people to God is a work for which no man is sufficient.

We have endeavoured to the best of our ability to keep all the wheels of the machinery in as active operation as possible, and though some of them have dragged very heavily, others have rolled on more smoothly, and thus while on the one hand we have often been discouraged, we have on the other been often cheered and encouraged.

During the former part of the year, indeed until the four last months our Sabbath day services were very irregularly attended, owing in the first place to the epidemic, which cut off so many of our poor natives, secondly to the want of proper church accommodation since the blowing down of our church in March—and lastly but not leastly, to the fact that our increasing knowledge of the language has enabled us to tell them too plainly of the nature of sin and that the gospel and heathenism cannot go hand in hand.

We have service an hour every Sabbath morning on the mission premises, at the close of which I meet with the men in one end of the church, and Mrs Matheson with the women in the other, and catechize them on the preceding discourse, after which I generally itinerate two or three hours, and embrace every opportunity of speaking of Jesus to all with whom I am privileged to meet. Mrs M. accompanies me to the villages near at hand. The out stations I visit alone. Some Sabbaths we are much encouraged, others quite the reverse.

The attendance at the morning service has averaged 28 during the year, sexes nearly equal—if any difference, a greater number of females. The services are conducted much as at home, the reading of the chapter excepted. That will however come as soon as possible. As our collection of Psalmody has hitherto been, and is still very small, we do not weary them with the reading of many verses either before or after sermon. When we came here we had but one hymn consisting of four verses. We have recently translated the 100th Psalm.

Our school, if such it can be called is open every day that any person will attend. Some days we have ten or fifteen, other days none. Of the males four have