

taken possession of Fila, one of our out stations. Such, however, is not the case. They have not, so far, taken possession of any place except what they have purchased.

I have lately begun to visit Meli regularly. Our teachers have been going there occasionally for some time. A few of them are friendly, but some of them are bitterly opposed, and would not hesitate a moment about taking our lives, if it were not that they are afraid lest a man-of-war should punish them. I never was, to all appearance, so much in danger of being clubbed, since coming here as last Sabbath. It is difficult just to know what to do. Should anything happen me I should probably not get much sympathy as they have forbidden me time and again not to go back. But on the other hand how are we to get them in—how can they desire the Gospel unless they hear it? See how long we have been here, and they are still opposed. How much longer must we wait for them to be willing to listen to our message? So that I feel it to be my duty to take my life in my hand, as it were, and go amongst them leaving the result in God's hands.

Your affectionate son,

JOHN W.

HAVANNAH HARBOR, EFATE,
February 26th, 1887.

My Dear brother Thomas :

An English man-of-war leaves here to-morrow morning for Noumea, so I am availing myself of the opportunity of sending you a hurried note.

Our heavenly Father has seen fit to bereave us again. A fortnight ago to-day our dear little Walter was taken from us. Dysentery, a terrible epidemic, again visited us, and a great number of the natives took it. Only one of them died of it so far. Dear little Walter took it on Tuesday, and by Friday we managed to get it checked, but inflammation of the brain set in, and then we could do nothing for him. He was within a day or two of being thirteen months old.

Some two months ago he was very ill from teething, and we thought he would not be spared long to us, but he got nicely over it, and was getting quite fat. On Saturday about dark his sufferings were ended.

The same night two of my young men and I made a little coffin. About eleven

o'clock p.m. I retired feeling sad and weary. During the night felt miserable, and had a very poor night's rest. Next morning Alice had dysentery very bad, and I had it too, but not so bad. Nothing would do but I must go to bed. It was hard to do this, as my little lamb was not buried, but to please Amanda I took a hot bath and went to bed. Perhaps it was well I did, for dysentery is such a terrible complaint in the tropics, that a person is wise to use every precaution at the commencement. Amanda brought me the medicine I wished and with God's blessing on it, and remaining as quiet as possible, I got up on the third day quite free from it. Not so with dear Alice. We had painful watching with her for over a week, at times expecting every moment she would breathe her last. We felt quite reconciled to God's will, whatever it might be. On Tuesday last she began to improve, and when I left home yesterday morning she was able to walk about a little. I was amazed to see how Amanda kept up that Sabbath morning, Alice, Morrison, and I sick in bed, and dear little Walter in his coffin in the study. Morrison had fever. He is better now. The poor natives were very kind, and sympathized sincerely with us.

Mr. Macdonald and I are busy working at our translation of the New Testament. That is the reason of my being round here now. I had agreed to come round on the 15th inst., but could not, as I have explained above, Amanda can send over land for me should Alice get worse, or any of the rest take ill. Norman is very well. We had a letter from Jessie last week and she was well.

Two Roman Catholic priests have been landed on Meli, one of our small islands. The natives did not want them and drove them across to the mainland. I had been visiting them for some time, and a number of them were and are still, quite friendly, but some half-dozen or so did not wish me, as they were preparing for a feast, and they forbade me to go back any more until after the feast. I continued, however, to visit them, and they became enraged and were going to murder me, so I am obliged to leave them for the present. The priests are living on the mainland, and no doubt will do their best to get an opening. They are the worst natives by far that I have had anything to do with. I don't suppose they would dare do any