

TANA, June 4, 1861.

*Rev. and Dear Brother,*—The beginning of another month, reminds me that it is time to render an account of the past.

In some respects the last month has been the most encouraging which we yet passed among the Tanese. The excitement caused by the recent mortality has in a great measure subsided, and the natives are apparently placing more confidence in us than they have ever done on any former occasion. They come about the mission premises in greater numbers, and seem more disposed to believe our real object in living among them. And though we have still to lament a universal deadness to spiritual things, and an apparent determination not to know anything of the true God, yet some of them are becoming more or less convinced that there is a God, who seeth not as their gods see, and whose providential care is extended over those who place their confidence in him. They have had during the past month convincing evidence that God careth for his people; and that those who put their trust in him shall never want, has been clearly exhibited before them and a proof of God's goodness, such as words could not convey, and which has not we hope been altogether lost upon them.

In one of my former letters, I mentioned that the January and March hurricanes had destroyed the greater part of our provisions, that we were left nearly destitute. At that time the natives were all up in arms against us and the religion of Jesus, as the cause of all their sickness and of all the destruction of food and property, occasioned by the storms, and of the ashes from the volcano, which was then exceedingly active. Their hatred had risen to such a height, that they determined by every possible means to have us quit the island, as the only remedy for all their troubles. Having resorted to many expedients, all of which God defeated, they as a last resort (seeing that our provisions were nearly done) seemingly resolved that we should starve; and from January until the middle of last month, were not able to procure ten shillings worth of food from the natives among whom we live.

Seeing the game they were trying to play, lest they should consider that we were dependent on them, and should in-

fer that we were endeavouring to get a footing on the island not for them but for theirs, we concluded, let the consequence be what it might, that we would not ask them for an article, but would ask of Him, "whose is the earth and the fulness thereof," who well knew the circumstances in which we were placed, and who we felt assured, if he had work for us to do, would not only send relief in his own good time, but would also overrule the event for the furtherance of his own cause.

Our hopes were not in vain. In God's good time our wants were abundantly supplied, the timely supplying of which has done more to confirm our past statements to the Tanese—to convince them that God is good, that he knoweth and careth for his people, than all that has ever been said to them on the subject.

From the first when asked by the natives what we would eat, we used invariably to tell them that God would provide; and though the question was often asked tauntingly, yet finding that they always received the same reply, while many laughed at what they considered our apparent folly, others used to say, "well we don't know about that, but we'll see by and by."

From the first of May we were on short allowance, and on the 20th, had only a sufficiency of flour to make one loaf. In the afternoon it was a question not easily decided, whether or not it should be baked that day or left until the morrow; but while considering what was best to be done, we were agreeably surprised to hear the natives shout "Sail ho."

In the evening the Capt. sent his boat on shore, and as he was recently from Sydney his vessel was still stored with fresh provisions, and he was thus both able and willing to supply our wants. In this matter we cannot but see the hand of God and I hope we are truly grateful, not only for our own deliverance, but for this striking manifestation of God's goodness, in thus clearly revealing his arm as powerful to save.

No event has transpired since our arrival, which has more powerfully convinced the Tanese, that there is a God, and that we are seeking their welfare, in requesting them to abandon their own gods and to have no god, but the God who knows all things.

During the greater part of last month,