

perintendence, the other conducted by a Teacher from Aneiteum. On Sabbath he had three places of worship. In the central one service was held every Sabbath morning, and at the other two, every alternate Sabbath afternoon. A building was erected at the Central Station 24 x 48 feet, and opened in March. The attendance on public worship began to increase daily so that the average in March and April was from 180 to 330, while in the preceding month, it had been from 50 to 70. Worship for the natives was kept up in his own house four nights in the week, attendance varied from 4 or 5 to 25 or 30 persons. Mrs Matheson had a number of girls and young women learning to sew. He returned to Aneiteum in the last week of April, and after some 8 or 10 weeks began to gain strength, but as we have already seen from the minute of missionary meeting, the brethren would not permit his renewal of labor on Tana. The rainy season was approaching, and the superstitious fears of the Tanees as to the effect of the Mission producing sickness and death, fully justify the conclusion of the missionary brethren, apart from other special reasons assigned by them. It would seem that, while submitting with becoming resignation to the hand of providence thus laid on him, Mr Matheson did not feel satisfied to await the slow recovery which at best had been experienced at Umetch. His patience, says Mr Goddie, was exhausted on this island. I suggested to him a visit to Erromanga. Change of Society and place seems to be beneficial to him. He is entirely unfit for labor of any kind. His presence at his own station would be injurious to the cause. You are aware of the strong prejudices of many of these islanders against christianity, from the idea that it brings sickness and death; and it seems undesirable that its first representatives should be persons of infirm health. It would give us all great pleasure could we conscientiously recommend Mr M. to return to Tana. I am glad to say that for some months his health has been a little better, but then these months have been warm and dry, and most favorable to persons in his situation. The recommendation to visit Tana thus given was adopted, as we find that on the 11th Decr, as Mr M. writes, they set sail from Aneiteum, and in twenty-four hours reached

Erromanga again, in a trading vessel. They met, as we might anticipate, a cordial welcome from Mr and Mrs Gordon. The mission premises on this island are situate on the summit of a very high hill, so that while there the invalid will enjoy every opportunity of regaining health which outward situation can afford. Mr M. adds: we expect to remain here until Mr Johnson comes, who, if he left N. S. in October, will be here in April, and then, if all is well, we proceed together to Tana, or some other field of labor. The Board, while thus furnishing the latest intelligence which has been received from their third missionary, feel peculiar satisfaction in knowing that every thing has been done which the sympathy of brethren, the nature of the climate and the application of medical skill could secure. Dr McGillivray, it would seem, gives but faint hopes of his ultimate recovery. He has bestowed much pains on the investigation of his case, and pronounces it a complication of disease. But it is easy with Jehovah Rophi to disappoint our fears and to raise up his servant for his work. To Him would we commit our afflicted brother, in the abiding faith that what is most conducive to the interests of the mission, the trial of the missionary, and the glory of God, will be the happy result. No man, nor body of men, is necessary to Him who can and will raise up on every side both men and means to advance his cause, when the time, even the set time to favor Zion is indeed come. If one sows and another reaps—one labors and another enters on his labor—we have but the fulfilling of prophecy or the reproducing of history. It has always been so, and so it will always be, while the world in its fallen state endureth. Even so, Father, for so it seemeth good in thy sight. The sudden death of Mrs Paton, in circumstances which command universal sympathy, has been felt by the mission families and the churches at home as a very severe affliction. The Board feel confident that the bereaved missionary and the church he represents have enjoyed and will enjoy a large share in the christian sympathies of the church in Nova Scotia.

Let us now visit the residence and review the labours of our second missionary. Mr. Gordon and his help meet have continued through the year past, to enjoy general, tho'