

natives declared it to be their conviction that if Mr. and Mrs. G. had remained in the Bay instead of removing to a place two miles distant and living alone, they would have been safe, notwithstanding the misrepresentations of Rangi. [this is the name of the wicked Malayan who incited the natives to the devilish deed] and the consequent anger of the people at a distance.—In that case they would have been among their friends, who would have stood by them and made common cause with them. That Mr. G. took the step referred to is matter of universal regret among all his friends and the friends of the Mission. His reason for doing so was a conviction that it was necessary to the health of Mrs. Gordon.”

Dr. TURNER is decidedly of the opinion that Mr. Gordon was not only justified in removing his house to the mountain and away from the Bay, but that he could not have done otherwise without either leaving the Mission or seeing his wife die before his eyes in less than three months. The Bay, Dr. Turner assured me, would have proved fatal to Mrs. G. in a very short time, so unhealthful is it. On the mountain, she enjoyed robust health. And that mountain home built with so much toil by poor Gordon, was the means of saving Mr. Matheson's life—for it was there that he recovered from a disease that threatened to cut him down very speedily. Nor was there anything like a village in the Bay, anything of a permanent population who “would have stood by” Mr. Gordon. The natives are migratory, passing frequently from place to place, unsettled on account of ceaseless wars, and as easily accessible on the mountain as on the plain. These facts show that Mr. Gordon took the only course that was open to him, except going off to New Zealand—and he was not the man to forsake his post!

It is easy to be very wise after the event,—to tell how things might or should have been mended: but it is poor generosity, poor justice, poor wisdom that would reflect on the silent dead, who have lost their lives nobly in the noblest of enterprises!

Dr. Turner spoke of the Gordons with the most cordial affection. He evidently appreciated them rightly. He expressed great gratification at the prospect of our Church sending out three new men.

That RANGI, that malignant Malayan, should be put upon his trial for the murder of our Missionaries. He was undoubtedly accessory to it before the fact. He is a British subject and amenable to British law. He has nine wives, the daughters of the principal chiefs on the island, and it is this that gives him influence. It is suggested that he should be expelled from Erromanga on the next occasion that a man-of-war visits the island.

May 17th, 1862.

R. M.

THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN ENGLAND.

This Court met on Monday evening and closed last evening at 9 o'clock. I attended as many of its Sessions as I could consistently with other calls on my time. There are features connected with the Synod which I will note first and then I will give the Statistics.

The attendance amounted to about one hundred and fifty between ministers and elders; the latter being almost equal in number to the former.—The facilities for travelling here are such that members can come from the most distant districts in a short time, and at a comparatively small expense.