

all Christians become one church, with Jesus Christ its only Lord, and His word as "the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him forever." And I am truly glad and thankful to Him that our church here and elsewhere is foremost in this heavenly cause. If we will but preserve this spirit in faith, love and devoted obedience to His word, it will be a pledge of constant prosperity in His cause. By christian unity in His word and Spirit, He will work a reformation in the world, to which all previous reformations have been but beginnings.

P. MELVILLE.

#### Letter from Rev. J. Goodwill.

CAPE LISBOURNE, Nov. 14th, 1872.

*Mr. Editor*.—It is not very easy, at present, for me to write. I have been, for some time past, suffering from a heeling hand, and I am not altogether yet free from its torture. This is, no mistake, a very trying climate. We are mostly all the time suffering from one ailment or other, of a native character; and I assure you that this part of the world is no paradise, such as some would have you believe; and any person who comes here with such ideas, will find himself grievously disappointed. Santo is said to be one of the most fertile and beautiful islands in all the group, but it is not. It does not abound in all the fruits imaginable and luxuries conceivable, as it is said to do. There are no fruits on any of these islands worth the name, except these introduced by missionaries or others, although there is so much said about the abundance of good things to be got here. The native bananas and bread-fruit are not good food, although they are agreeable to some palates. The yams and taro, when properly prepared, are pleasant to the taste; but there is one thing quite evident—you are not able to proceed very far from the strength of the ailments, and you will very soon be brought to a stand with no very pleasant sensations. The native oranges and lemons are regarded, by the natives themselves, as the food of devils and evil spirits. They are exceedingly acid and bitter, and woe to the person who attempts to eat them. As to any other fruits, which are the spontaneous growth of these islands, I know none worth speaking of, although there are not a few of an inferior order. There are, however, some nuts which are, in a measure, palatable, but do not agree with the European constitution. If you live much on, or in any measure indulge in, native food, your flesh will suffer for it. The natives themselves

have generally large swellings, which usually open once a year into running sores of a very disgusting and painful character. Do not imagine, by this or anything I have written, that we feel disappointed. No, far from it. I trust that we have counted the cost long before we left our native country. The truth of the matter is, we say very little, if anything at all, about our sufferings, because we do not like to be harping on our own trials all the time. To give you a bird's-eye view of what we suffer, you may learn from the following:—We got two couples as teachers, on the 1st of August, from Mare, an island of the Loyalty group, in which there is no fever and ague. They all took ill, in about 12 days after their arrival at Santo, and some of them are, as I am writing, at the point of death. They brought with them Influenza and a disease of loathsome boils. From both these troubles, we all suffered, and our children very nearly died. We gave the natives shelter in our own house; and here they are all, two men and two women, and a little girl two years of age, stretched out with fever and ague, quite helpless, and a great trouble to us, both by day and night, but especially in the evening and night. If they move at all, it is then they get outside, and try to undo all we do for them, in way of nursing them. We had more than enough to do before; and I do not see now how we can stand it. Here we are without any help, and almost worried to death. Add to this the insecurity of life, for "we know not what a day may bring forth." We have one consolation; we are in the hands of a good and gracious God, who has delivered us out of many dangers; and I trust that He will deliver us from all wicked and violent hands. No person can raise a hand to harm us, while He sees it proper to spare our lives, and has work for us to do. But even should our lives be sacrificed, we are not afraid to die for the cause of Christ.

For the last three months, we were in very high hopes. We had a very large attendance on the Lord's day, and all things were going on exceedingly well. Yes, indeed, too well to continue. Of late, a returned native from Queensland, a son of one of our most attentive chiefs, commenced disturbance, and succeeded in making his father our enemy. The son is a very powerful fellow, and imagines that he can easily live by plunder; and, of course, he thinks that our store-house is a very useful and expedient place when he shall be in want, and that is at all times, for he has not made any preparation for the future. All the other chiefs are friendly; but what reliance can be placed on naked savages and cannibals,