

better acquainted than I am with the cruelties practised in the dark places of the earth.

Serious though the above evils may appear, they are not the most injurious which are likely to result, unless sovereign grace miraculously interposes. From time immemorial, the devil has been their god, and to him they have ever given the glory due unto the Lord, consequently in this language there is not only a barrenness, but apparently an entire destitution of terms expressive of spiritual and divine things. Such being the case, even those with whom we have had most intercourse, and who have been longest under instruction, have as yet but very vague and exceedingly imperfect ideas of God. They cannot conceive of him as a sin-pardoning God, willing to receive the returning penitent; but regard him as a God of vengeance, in whom no compassion flows. They believe that God's knowledge extends only to those who embrace the Gospel, and that so long as men continue in a state of heathenism God knows nothing about them, and that they are at liberty to live as they like, without incurring God's displeasure.

On the contrary, they believe that so soon as a person ventures about the mission premises, converses with the missionary on religious subjects, and attends public worship on the Sabbath day, so soon does God acquire a knowledge of that person; and any sin afterwards committed by that person, not only lays the offender open to God's displeasure, but every person of whom God has any knowledge, that knowledge being limited only to worshippers and denied as they blasphemously assert from the missionary. In this case the girl attended school and Church regularly, and was according to their theory, well known to God—for which sin God will, in their estimation, punish some one, or more, or it may be all who attend worship on Sabbath. The question now seems to be, will we still continue to worship and thus run the risk of being disposed to God's displeasure for her sin, or will we abandon the worship, go back to our heathenism, and be again as formerly unknown to God. In fine, they believe that God is indebted to the missionary for all his knowledge respecting the inhabitants of this island, and that the missionary cannot give God any information respecting any person, only while that person continues to receive instruction from the missionary, either on Sabbath or week days, hence a man may come and perform any amount of manual labour and receive payment for it, but if he refuses to listen to the word of God, and will not attend Church on Sabbath, he imagines that he is still unknown to God, as I cannot report of him anything good or bad. How the matter may terminate is known only to God. A sorer trial we have never experienced, neither have our faith and patience ever before been so severely tested. We do not however feel discouraged, (God is with us). It may be the turning point, the dark cloud, soon to be succeeded by the rising of the Son of Righteousness, with healing under his wings. It may be that some of the prayers which have gone up before God on behalf of Tana, may ere long begin to descend in showers of blessing upon the heads of those by whom and for whom they have been offered, and dark though our prospects are at present, even here there may be some hearts of which the fallow ground has already been broken, into which the good seed has been sown, and which if soon watered copiously by the influences of God's spirit, may reveal the speedier dawning of a reaping day than we dare now anticipate. The work is God's. It is high heavens determination that the Lord Jesus Christ shall have the heathen for his inheritance, and I believe that no power on earth or in hell will be permitted again to overthrow the work of God on this island. Let those therefore who have power with God and can prevail, stand by us in this trying hour. Let them discharge their duty faithfully, hold up our hands prayerfully, and while wrestling with God for dark Tana, imagine themselves in Samson's position, when it was said unto him, the Philistines be upon thee, for with a stronger foe than the Philistines we have to contend. Let those to whom God is giving the silver and the gold in abundance, loan back to him a sufficiency of what he has given them for the successful oncarrying of his own work, and who can talk but that even before you call he may answer, that while you are yet speaking he may hear, and that in answer to your prayers, he may soon cheer your hearts by the assurance that the standard of the Gospel has been immoveably planted on this island, that dark Tana has been added to the conquests of the Prince of Peace, that her benighted