

# THE MONTHLY RECORD,

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*"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning."*—Psalm 137, 4-5.

### OPENING OF THE MARTYR'S MEMORIAL CHURCH, ERROMANGA.

Rev. A. Robertson, in Erromanga writes:—The Martyr's Memorial Church was duly opened on the 13th June. At the morning service, as well as in the afternoon, the church was filled by an attentive and deeply interested congregation, among whom were the sons of the murderer of John Williams. The second eldest engaged humbly in public prayer! Five years before that day he threatened to take my life, but the Lord had better work for him to do, and better things in store for him and me. Three months before the opening of the church he escaped *only with his life* at a fight with bows and arrows, clubs and battle-axes, when hundreds fought at one of their idolatrous feasts, and two months before the opening of the church he gave up all heathen practices, came across the river, and put up a house near the mission premises, and helped us almost daily with the church and is now one of our foremost men for the truth. He also laid the corner stone of the Martyr's Church. His eldest brother is not such a promising subject, but we fully expect him to give up the heathenism soon, although we do not expect him ever to be

as useful a man as his brother, who is naturally a gentleman and had the manliness to tell me he intended to kill me five years ago. The third, and youngest son, is about 14 years of age, and can read well and write pretty well, and is one of those dear little fellows you cannot help loving. The two already referred to are about 40 and 42 years of age. I preached in the morning a sermon suited to the place and occasion, and presided at the afternoon service, when Yomot, Atuelle, Nouvee, and Sampent addressed the meeting on the past and present of the Erromangan Mission, in the new church, dwelling on the kindness of those who so generously supplied it, and on the duty of every Christian in Erromanga, now to be as active in Christ's cause as they had once been in the service of the devil.

Umolop, Naiyoop, Lovoh, and Umow engaged in prayer, and at the close of the service a collection of twelve shillings was taken up towards lighting the church. We had previously said that no native woman or girl would be allowed to enter the new church who had not on a calico dress, and for a month before the opening of the church the women were busy doing some work for us, or bringing fowls or yams, that they might get calico for a dress, and about twenty more gathered coral rock for lime,