

munication, August 14, he had not completed a full year's service. From first to last his station has been one of high promise, being removed from the debasing influences of the sandal wood establishments and commerce with foreigners. Indeed it seems an invariable result that heathen superstition and hostility go down before the light and love of Christianity much more speedily and effectually where the vices and cruelties of so called civilized society have not been engrafted on the native stock. Thus we find that while Mr. Geddie, Mr. Gordon and Mr. Paton have each had hair-breadth escapes from assassination, their stations being at the principal harbours of their respective islands, Mr. Inglis, Mr. Matheson and Mr. Copeland seem to have escaped bodily peril from their inland situation. During the few months which preceded Mr. Matheson's illness, his progress was most satisfactory. All necessary buildings had been erected. Three schools were in operation, two of which were under his personal care and one was conducted by a teacher from Aneiteum. There were three places of public worship, and in the central one, a building 24 ft. by 38, service was held every Sabbath morning, and in the other two every alternate afternoon. Attendance had increased from 180 to 350 during the last two months. When he returned, as might have been expected, a great change had taken place. The schools had been broken up and the limited knowledge of the pupils lost. On the first Sabbath only 9 men and 12 women attended public service, but at the latest date the audiences were steadily increasing. Some two or three profess to have abandoned the most disgusting abominations of heathenism. One of these is the young chief of the district in which the missionary resides. He had been living on the mission promises for six weeks, and his conduct was most exemplary. He says he is anxious to know the Word of God, and embraces every opportunity of communicating to others what little knowledge he has acquired. At the death of his wife he gave permission that her body might be buried instead of thrown into the sea, and he took no part in the usual heathen ceremonies practised on the occasion.

The most cheering tidings, however, from this station must be accounted the remarkable improvement which has taken place in the health of Mr. Matheson. The testimony of all the brethren on this point is one. Mr. Johnston says, "I am most happy to inform you that Mr. Matheson's health is wonderfully improved, and he is quite actively employed in work, and the work at present appears to prosper with him far beyond what it is doing here." (Port Resolution.) Mr. Paton says, "Mr. and Mrs. Matheson are enjoying comparatively good health, and many evidence of God's work prospering in their hands. From forty to eighty persons attend worship. His house had been removed in one day by the natives to the top of a hill, near the old site, but in a more healthy situation." To Mr. Paton who offered to assist the wadding and plastering one chief replied, "Missi, we are all strong to do Mr. Matheson's work, your people are lazy, and wont work for you. You go to Port Resolution and do your own work, we will do our Missi's work for we all love him." At a still later date Mr. Copeland says: I had the pleasure of seeing all the members of the Tana Mission save Mrs. Matheson. Mr. Matheson looks a great deal better and is evidently much stronger. In this wonderful recovery which has evidently taken all the members of the Mission by surprise. We cannot fail to mark the fruit of many prayers, and a new stimulus to fervent intercession for the continued health and growing prosperity of all the Mission families.

MR. JOHNSTON'S ARRIVAL ON TANA.

Mr. Johnston, our fourth and last missionary on the New Hebrides, left Halifax, November, 1859, for Boston, and thence by Melbourne to Aneiteum, which he reached June 25th, 1860. His arrival greatly cheered the hearts of all the missionaries, and was greatly blessed for the strengthening of those fraternal bonds which are so needful for mutual prosperity. The minute of conference held at Aneiteum, July 17th, 1860, has already been laid before the church. All the members of the Mission were present, except Mr. Inglis who was then as now in Scotland. At this meeting it was unanimously agreed that Mr. Johnston be stationed on Tana, while Erromanga was left to be supplied by the first missionary for the Reformed Presbyterian Church, that shall be located on these islands. In accordance with this resolution Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, after a few