

LETTER FROM SOSO, NALIG, AND WORIS.

Second—Mr. Milne's translation of the letter from "Soso, Nalig, and Woris."

"Love to you Missionaries on the islands of the New Hebrides—I speak to you concerning our wish, together with the small chiefs of this place, because the powerful chiefs and the old men, and the people of Erromanga have rejected the message of God to us, and the word of Jesus Christ. And we are witnesses to this—that he came with their consent to Erromanga. And now hear and know. If it be your word take us and put us on one land and give us one Missionary to teach us, and do not send one to this land; for the candlestick has left our land, therefore leave ye it likewise; and send four man-of-war ships to remain at Erromanga, one east and one west, and one north, and one south, and let them destroy the villages of the murderers, and thieves, and breakers of the word, and of all evil-doers in the land of Erromanga. The end of my word and of Nalig's and Woris's. Ah! love to you missionaries."

As it was on the 25th March that the deputation came to Aniwa with the sad news, and Mr. Smith and Nalig gave me the 23rd or 24th February as the date of the murder, Soso must be wrong in his dates.

FURTHER INFORMATION.

I may state that the deputation informed me that the native christians had been constantly on their guard to protect Mr. Gordon, but as Narimpow had been attending school so long, about six months, they feared no harm from him going up to the house talking with Mr. Gordon, but one of the christian natives at the back of the house heard Mr. Gordon give a cry and fall, and looking through the window, he discharged his musket at Narimpow, but both he and his friend and helper Nare, escaped unhurt.

The heathen had so arranged it, that they intended to have been able to murder Mr. Smith, the whaler, and a carpenter in his employment, on the same morning with Mr. Gordon, after which they were to massacre the whole native christians, and for this work, 70 armed men had been sent off secretly, under the old chief Noai, but a severe storm detained them one day on the way, so that a messenger from Mr. Gordon's station arrived at Dillon's Bay before them with the sad news. Instantly the white men and the servants on their side of the bay, and Nalig and the native christians on the other side, were all armed and ready to defend themselves. The 70 men arrived and said they were come to look at a small steamer Mr. Smith was building. But the young christian chief Nalig refused to allow them

to cross the river, and informed them that he had just heard what they had done, and were come to do, but that no white man should be killed there that he could protect. Some of the heathen were now eagerly forcing their way across the river, when the white men discharged some muskets among them, and though none fell dead, it threw them into a state of fear and confusion, and seeing Nalig with all the native christians, armed and ready to defend themselves, they turned and fled.

EVENTS FOLLOWING THE MURDER.

Next morning Nalig took four of his bravest men, and set the others to protect the white men, the native Christians and the mission premises at Dillon's Bay, and started for Portinia Bay, where Mr. Gordon had fallen. And, after consulting with Soso, the teacher, they assembled the whole Christian party, packed up Mr. Gordon's books, furniture, &c., and sent off a boat load for Dillon's Bay; but she was so leaky they were forced to return, when they locked all up in Mr. Gordon's house. They now displayed considerable wisdom in selecting those things most useful to advance God's work, both on their own island and Santo. They took Mr. Gordon's Santo and Erromanga books, and all his translations and any English letters they could find, and carried them all to Dillon's Bay, a distance of at least 18 miles. Forty-three Christian natives, men, women and children, cast themselves on Nalig's protection, crossed the island with him and Soso, and are yet living at Dillon's Bay. They were nearly two days on the way; and some friendly chief gave them food, and said if Nalig and his party were attacked by the heathen, they would help, and would now be with them, but feared the revenge of the heathen. They got safely to Dillon's Bay; and, after resting a night, Nalig returned with nine young men, and on their way they met the heathen party who were thirsting for their blood. Nalig called the chief, and addressed them saying:—

NALIG'S SPEECH.

"I was a child when Mr. Gordon came here. Then you chiefs met and desired him to live among you, and you promised to protect him; and when he was about to return to Santo, again you met, and requested him not to go, but to remain among you. You have deceived him and all the missionaries. You murdered his brother and his wife. You murdered him, and now you want to murder all his children who worship God, and all white men. But Jehovah will help us, we are not afraid. Missi McNair taught me to fear and worship Jehovah; and though you say I am only a boy yet, I am strong for the wor-