

would have shared the same fate, had it not been for these opportune visits of these ships of war. If however nothing is done at Erromanga, our situation will be more than ever perilous, as some of our natives have already fitted up a canoe, and sent a deputation to Erromanga to ascertain whether or not the Erromangans have been punished, and they say they will do to us as was done to Mr and Mrs Gordon if they find that the guilty party escaped detection. We wait their return with perhaps more anxiety than you can imagine, as our remaining at or abandoning of our station depends humanly speaking upon their report of proceedings.

Though troubled on every side, we have hitherto been permitted to stand by our posts, and there our hearts still fondly cling; but if nothing has been done at Erromanga, we may perhaps see it to be our duty to retire for a season, until the fierce anger of this people be somewhat abated. And when that may be is known only to God. If the Tannese Mission be again abandoned, either by flight or by death, I do not think it will again be occupied until the old generation have passed away. It is not however for us to prophecy what may, or may not be. Of one thing we are assured the work is the Lord's and we know that he will dispose of it, and of all the agencies connected with it in such a manner as shall best tend to the promotion of his own glory and the good of souls.

During the past three weeks I have been taking the times rather more easily than usual or than desirable, having been partially laid aside from active duty with sore throat, from the effects of which I am again quite recovered, so as to be able to attend to the usual routine of duty. I had two services with the natives last sabbath as usual. On the two preceding sabbaths I was obliged to dispense with one service.

We have had a great deal of cold South East wind during the past month from which we have all suffered more or less, but as the weather is again getting warmer, the natives will probably soon be in better humor, as they are exceedingly cross during cold and wet weather.

Mr Paton reports matters at his station much as usual, some days moving along pretty smoothly, other days rough enough. We have not heard any word from any of the missionaries during the past month, but at last accounts they were all well. We are daily looking for the "John Williams." If she left Sydney in May as reported, she is several days due, according to her former rate of voyaging.

Cease not to make mention of us in your prayers.

Yours truly
J. W. MATHESON.

Rev James Bayne.

TANA, October 3, 1861.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—

Since my last we were favoured with a visit of the "John Williams" on her return from England. As the sea was running high, we were unable to have any communication with her from this side of the island; and even during the time which she lay at Port Resolution, we were unable to have any communication with that station either by sea or land.

I have since been at Port Resolution, but as Mr Paton will give you full particulars respecting the time of her arrival—the deputation from Eastern Polynesia—and the future movements of the mission vessel, &c., I need not refer to the subject.

By the "John Williams" we had some packages of papers, magazines, letters, &c. I had also a box of personal clothing, books, stationery, &c., forwarded by my brother, agreeable to order valued at £28 16s. 2d., which you will place to my account. Enclosed in that box there was also a small box for Mrs M., containing school material from some unknown person or persons in Miramichi, the receipt of which you will please acknowledge. In looking over the *Missionary Register* of November 1859, I see the following articles contributed by friends for this station which have not come to hand, viz., from ladies of West River congregation one box valued at £5 3s. 9d., 27 yds. cloth, from Primitive Church, New Glasgow £2 14. 3d., also from upper settlement, East River, 30 yards cloth.

Matters are moving on here much as usual. In some respects there seems to be less excitement among the natives than during the preceding month. Kati has of