

about him, but let us rejoice that righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. He doeth all things well. When we cannot comprehend, let us stand still and adore.

Let the place of Mr. Johnston be supplied without delay. I trust that men of a similar spirit may be found in our Church, who will be willing to forsake the endearments of home and come far hence to preach among those Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. A missionary life in these islands is not without its dangers and trials, but it has also its enjoyments and comforts. After nearly thirteen years experience of the work, I like it better now than when I commenced.

I hope that you may receive a letter which I sent you last month. It contains an account of the measles and dysentery on this island, the burning of our new church, and a fearful hurricane which destroyed a great amount of food and property. It was in short a letter of disasters. I feel happy to say that the disease which has been desolating the island for the last three months is now abating. But, alas! it has laid about one-third of the population in the grave. I trust that this severe dispensation may be sanctified to the island.

You will learn from the several letters which will reach you that the New Hebrides Mission has of late passed through no ordinary trials. I believe that God is working for us by them, though in a mysterious way. Let us not be discouraged by them, but let them rather increase our interest in the cause, and stir us all up to more earnest and prayerful efforts for the evangelization of these dark isles of the sea.

I remain, ever yours, &c.,

JOHN GEDDIE.

Rev. J. Bayne, Secretary B. F. M. P. C. N. S.

STILL FURTHER PAINFUL TIDINGS—TWO THIRDS OF THE INHABITANTS OF EROMANGA SWEEP AWAY.

The same steamer that brought so distressing news from Tanna and Aneiteum has also brought a sad tale from Eromanga, as will be seen by the following letter from the Rev. G. N. Gordon.

DILLON'S BAY, EROMANGA, April 3, 1861.

Dear Brother,—

I have to communicate tidings of a painful nature in relation to what has taken place of late in this mission: Mr Johnston has finished his work, and has gone to his rest. I hope, however, that you will have received this information from Mrs. Johnston before this can reach you. I have let one opportunity pass without writing. The "Blue Bell" brought us this sad news from Tanna a month ago; but we have no particulars, as Mr. Paton could not write. I have only heard that Mr. Johnston overworked himself and succumbed to the unhealthy climate in January. This however, may not have been the cause. May God soften this grievous affliction to us all by the dew drops for his Israel. Mrs. Johnston was not strong when the vessel left, but we pray that she may be preserved through all her bitter sorrows. Brethren, pray for us all. We have no tidings from Mr. and Mrs. Matheson, as there appears to have been no communication between the mission premises since the measles spread in Tanna.

It does not often fall to the lot of missionaries to endure so many hardships as we have experienced on these islands of late. Any of us who may still escape violence may ever more have the hundred and twenty-fourth Psalm inscribed upon the fleshy tables of our hearts. Some of the least savage and more easily worked islands were first occupied out here; but Tanna and Eromanga where no teacher from the east could remain any time have fallen to our lot. Were I to give you a catalogue of the crimes which this people have committed upon foreigners and among themselves for the last three years, you would be astonished; and will not be surprised to learn that God has cut off two-thirds of them in some settlements if not in all. This terrible judgment will, I trust, open up Tanna and Eromanga to the Gospel which have hitherto been so obstinately shut against it. A few idle vagrant lads come about a missionary on an island like this, which are our first material to work upon. Their deception is so great, that our first hopes of them vanish, having been ill founded. The chiefs and heads of families have ever opposed the word of God since the time when they first began to understand it. The chiefs are nearly all dead. Of young men and children (about