

Concerning the printing of Genesis I spoke in my last letter, when mentioning other matters. This book will be in demand long before it is printed, that is to say, by a goodly number. I am at present translating as far as the nineteenth chapter, and have revised and re-written eight chapters, but it will be revised and re-written once more. Six months hence it will be ready for the press, and I think will be a fair translation. At any rate it will be far in advance of anything at present printed in the language. This is not surprising. The achievement is due to the existing literature of the language, being the result of diligence and hard work under difficulties. Luke is not, of course, well translated. About three-fourths of it are pretty good; still it is of eminent service. I have read through this gospel, in my public ministration, with remarks, once. A few have finished reading it in school. It is not in the hands of many yet. I think the most expeditious way of getting Genesis printed is to send the MSS. to Sydney, when nine months or a year hence, it may be ready for distribution, and when, with God's blessing, many will be ready to receive a copy. That is a long time to wait for it, but so must it be. This island is so large, and the people are so scattered, that the only plan is to teach them to read, (a long, hard task,) and give them the word of God.—Genesis is the book for them, as they have an ear for the historical.

It is only since I have tried to acquire the language from four different Pundits, that I have discovered the difficulties and great disadvantages under which my brother labored. Even now some of them want to put me astray, in two cases out of four, if I would allow them. I have only found one worth anything as a Pundit.—This is the lad whom I found at Aneiteum on my arrival. He has a pretty good knowledge of this language, and knows the most of any of his countrymen. I have at last got the correct paradigm of some verbs from him, after many provoking and fruitless efforts. You will not be surprised to hear that I did not find a correct paradigm of one verb in the language. Of the one that was written with most care I got Mana's correction, of this Joe's version was different, while Unox's was diverse from all the others. You, of course, cannot know how these things can be. Unox is not with me now, I had to let him go to teach, in accordance with an arrangement made before I knew his worth, and he was not here during the first two months of my residence. On the opposite side of the island has been opened up again, and he is at present there. On my visit there in December, I saw a few scattered remnants of Mana's work. I cannot now enlarge.

I have recently heard of the death of two women and one man, and another man mortally wounded by the Tanese of a sandal wood establishment at that place, March 15th.

I shall now close this long, too long, letter. About the printing I suppose you may think it premature. Be it so. But remember that we are widely separated by time and distance. Perhaps it may be delayed another year, when both Genesis and Matthew may be published at the same time. Another death occurred of late; a boy dropped down dead on the road. He was reading in Luke.

Recently there has been a great falling off in attendance at school, and on the sabbath. Death is the principal cause, as it awakens some apprehension, and the protracted mourning for the dead, also, which ensues.

On the opposite side the foreigners and natives are, and have been in grief for a long time. Feasting is another cause of irregular attendance. I may here withdraw a statement made about the probable number of the regenerated, for I now believe it was an over-estimate. Spiritual death reigns here. We are not free from danger, but the issue of all may be lasting security. Breakers of the seventh commandment give a world of trouble, as death is the penalty. An innocent boy was recently killed at a distant settlement, because of his sister's defection; and one of our own people here, has now persons in three different settlements ready to kill him. I stretched my prerogative as far as I could safely, in bringing to trial those who had given the woman involved rough treatment, and in receiving her out of their hands.

The Lord has been favorable to us in this season of the year. We experienced a gale, a hurricane, on this group, about the beginning of this month. My house was favorably situated for its reception, and so escaped with little damage. The wind was north-west, and the sea was tremendous. The whole coast exposed to it has been destroyed by the spray and vapour of the sea. Vegetation is as if it had been scorched with fire; it presents the appearance of a potatoe field after a sharp frost.

Our brethren, by latest accounts from Aneiteum, were pretty well. Mr. and Mrs. Morrison may not be writing at this date. I may say, that I heard from them to-day for the first time since the *Dayspring* sailed hence. They were enjoying excellent health. Upon the whole tidings from Fate were encouraging. It will be many a long day before sixty-nine communicants will be reported from this island.

Give greetings to all to whom they will