

fallen the mission on Erromanga, will not discourage efforts on behalf of that island. The presence among us of natives who believe and love the word of God, gives us a hold of the island which we will retain. The death of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon should give us an additional interest in it. We must not and dare not hastily abandon the ground that has been moistened with their blood, and the blood of those who went before them. The eyes of Christendom will now be upon you and watch your movements. I will now close my letter by the following extract from the editorial of the *Sydney Morning Herald*: "Doubtless those who sent Mr. and Mrs. Gordon to to their sphere of labour will not forsake it. Others will be found ready to step into their places. When we consider what men do for an inferior—often an evil cause—it would indeed be a reflection on the friends of missions, were they intimidated by this occasional loss of life. Thousands obey the clarion which calls to battle. Multitudes rush upon death under the impulse of savage animosity. Many venture their lives for the most transient and worthless gratifications. That which distinguishes the devotion of missionaries, and renders it worthy of special praise is, that it professed to aim at high moral results—and that it is under the inspiration, countenance and final judgement of Him, who came not to destroy men's lives but to save them."

I remain, Rev. and Dear Sir,  
Ever Yours &c.,  
JOHN GEDDIE.

Rev. James Bayne.

#### MR. GEDDIE'S ANNUAL REPORT.

ANEITEUM, Aug. 26th, 1861.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—At the close of thirteen years residence on this island I take my pen to address you. The last year has in many respects been an eventful one in the history of this mission. It has been remarkable for light and shade, for mercoies and trials. We have seen much to awaken thankfulness to God, from whom all mercies flow, and much also to impose silence and cause us to stand still and adore.

#### SICKNESS AMONG NATIVES.

I have already written to you about the introduction of the measles and dys-

entery to this island about the beginning of the year. The disease was brought in the schooner "Hirondelle," Capt. Rodd, belonging to one of the sandal wood establishments on the island. Though the fatal character of the sickness was well known to the parties who brought it, no warning was given to the natives about it, and no means employed to prevent it spreading. Some natives of Tana and Lifu who belonged to the vessel were indeed allowed to come on shore with infection on them, and mingle with the natives. Such trifling with human life is an evidence of fearful depravity, and does not escape the notice of God who made men of every colour in his own image. The disease soon spread over the whole island notwithstanding the efforts made to check its progress. The population at large were laid prostrate, and I do not believe there are half a dozen of person on the island, who did not take the sickness. I will not attempt to describe the distress and misery which that disease brought on this poor people. It would be painful to me to record what I was called on to witness, and as painful to you to read it. Many died of the disease itself, and many also from inattention and want of the common necessaries of life, as there were few able to help their neighbours. About one-third of the population were in the short space of three or four months swept into the grave. Among those who died we have to mourn the loss of two of my elders, seven young persons living on the mission premises, eight teachers, and fifty eight Church members. Many I trust died in the Lord, and there is reason to believe that our loss has been their gain.

The sickness led to the almost entire suspension of the missionary work for some months. The most that we could do was to attend to the wants of the sick and dying, and give them what aid we could lend them. I am glad to say that things begin to assume their former aspect, and the natives again make their appearance at public worship, and at the schools, though their number is much reduced. The late affliction appears to have had a solemnizing influence on the community at large, which I hope may continue. My class of candidates for Church membership numbers about thirty, and every week brings new applications for admission, from persons