

a floating rumour, and but too readily disbelieved. The name and memory of our young brother ought to be enrolled by us in the faithful army of martyrs, just as confidently as if he had fallen instantly by that club, the blow of which he evaded. After this occurrence Mr. Paton testifies, "Mr. Johnston could not sleep. He was pale next day, and after that I never observed him smile."

In common with other islands of the New Hebrides group, Tana has suffered, during the past year, very severely from the hurricane, which by its destruction of native food, threatened to introduce famine.

The example of the Erromangans, too, in destroying their Mission family, exerted a very dangerous influence on the Tanese. By the good hand of God upon them, however, the surviving missionaries were wondrously preserved, and their work had begun to exhibit very cheering tokens of prosperity. At Mr. Paton's station attendance on the Lord's day had risen to 60 from its former fluctuating number of from 10 to 30. Several of the chiefs had placed themselves under his instruction, and the children were gathering around him. At Mr. Matheson's district, a still more gratifying result was attained. While several influential chiefs have submitted with seeming cordiality to his instruction; one young chief named Kapuku was so deeply affected by the Word of God, that he brought all the gods that had fallen to him by inheritance (20 in number) and gave them to the missionary, declaring that he was resolved to give himself up to the instruction of the Word of God. Others were similarly affected; but the heathen part (especially their chiefs who saw in this measure of triumph, only the loss of their own authority and respect) were greatly enraged by this manifold desertion from native customs, and attachment to christian instruction. At this critical juncture, another hurricane arose, which destroyed all the native food exposed to its ravages, and exasperated anew heathen hostility. Mr. Paton was driven from his station, after suffering the loss of all his Mission property, valued at £800 stg., and in a most miraculous manner found his way to Mr. Matheson's station. Here also, the chiefs of Port Resolution were soon discovered inciting the people to deeds of violence. Not satisfied with the evils wrought at their own Mission station, they proceeded to urge the heathen party to burn the Church, and even the dwelling house of the missionary. In this they partially succeeded. The principal chief, "Kati," gave Mr. Matheson to understand that he too must leave, and while the missionaries stood in doubt as to the path of duty, a friendly vessel hove in sight. Proper signals were made, and the Captain at once suspecting some native insurrection, immediately sent on shore a boat, and armed crew, who rescued the lives and much of the property of the Mission. After a night and day's exposure to the d.e.p., the entire missionary party obtained a safe landing on Aneiteum. At Mr. Matheson's urgent request, the vessel re-visited Tana and brought three influential chiefs and their wives, and some children to Aneiteum, where they were at once placed under his instruction. The work of the Mission he says, can thus be carried on, and much more advantageously than on Tana. Such as are now under his care had braved the wrath of their heathen countrymen, on every occasion they had of late gone to the Mission premises, but now in peace, and surrounded by the most favourable circumstances, they will acquire rapidly and with most impressive effect, the grand truths of christianity.

The contrast which these poor Tanese exiles cannot fail to draw between the mild and docile Aneiteumese, and their own cruel and blood thirsty countrymen, will with God's blessing, constrain them to abandon all heathen practices and adopt the religion which has produced the precious fruits which are everywhere visible on Aneiteum. Mr. Paton is in the meanwhile itinerating in Australia, exciting everywhere the most lively interest in the Mission, and securing substantial aid for its future maintenance and extension. In the family bereavement which has overtaken Mr. and Mrs. Matheson, the Church will no doubt tenderly sympathize with them, and many earnest prayers will be presented for the health of the young mother who has so soon been called to restore her babe to the God who gave it, and in the time of weakness was exposed to the perils of such a flight.—It is most cheering for the friends of the Mission to observe the calm composure with which the husband and father contemplates his sore trials. All seem to be forgotten in the gladdening prospect of successful missionary labour, and in being