

al till Missionaries are again located on Erromanga. In regard to the first cause assigned, that which was first published, and which has been chiefly taken up by the public, viz: Mr. Gordon's denouncing temporal judgment, we may say that if Mr. Gordon's preaching was to any considerable extent of this character, he certainly erred. The denunciations of judgment by our Lord and his disciples were not directed against ignorant heathen. They were against those who had long enjoyed divine ordinances, yet who had obstinately continued to reject the Gospel, who had about filled up the measure of their guilt, and whose day of grace was about to close, and when this was known by special revelation. The conduct of inspired men in such a case, can never be a rule to a Missionary among ignorant heathen. It is possible that Mr. G. may have erred, but if he did, it was an error of judgment, an error, the outcrop of his burning zeal, which did not in the least reflect on his faithfulness as a missionary. We would be slow however to attribute even this to him. All that has been adduced does not convince us that he had gone farther than every preacher of righteousness is warranted in warning sinners of what God may do. Besides it does not become us to judge of his conduct in circumstances, of which we can have but a slight conception. At all events it is a relief to us in relation to Mr. Gordon, to be assured, that the principal cause of the sad event is to be found in another quarter, though it may well excite deepest melancholy to reflect on the source of this and of the chief troubles of the Missionaries. As Britons we may well blush to read, that like the great Apostle of the Gentiles, they are in "perils by their own countrymen," and that these form the greatest difficulties which they have to encounter. Let us rejoice that there are other Europeans in those seas of a different stamp. We may well entertain a grateful sense of the kindness of Mr. Milne, and the Board of Foreign Missions have accordingly directed their Secretary to tender to him an appropriate expression of the Church's gratitude to him for his attentions on the trying occasion of Mr. Gordon's death.

The question of persevering in our Mission to Erromanga is now fairly before the Church, and we think that our readers, generally, will admire the manner in which Mr. Geddie deals with the question. His Missionary ardour, tempered by prudence, and his long experience render him a safe counsellor, and we think that the Church will not hesitate to adopt with confidence his conclusions. He indeed says that it is not likely that any effort will be made to resume Missionary operations on that Island "this-year," meaning the year now closed. But he strongly urges the prosecution of our efforts both on that and neighbouring Islands at an early day, and we must say that the circumstances he has mentioned regarding Erromanga are more encouraging than we had reason to expect. It is plain that Mr. Gordon's labors have not been in vain, and his prayers will yet be gloriously answered. On taking the whole into serious consideration, the Board of Foreign Missions have resolved to advertise for another Missionary to supply Mr. Gordon's place.

But what are the prospects as to obtaining other Missionaries to occupy the posts of the departed? This is the subject of anxious thought with many, not only in our own Church, but in other denominations. We might almost say that the eyes of Christendom are upon us. Will our Church, having put her hand to the plough, draw back? Is there faith and zeal enough in her rising Ministry to cause others to stand forward to take the place of those who have fallen in the fore-front of battle? The time that has elapsed since the intelligence reached this country has been comparatively so short, and the matter itself so serious, and requiring such careful consideration, that we are not