

Letter from Rev. K. J. Grant.

SAN FERNANDO, Feb. 25th, 1873.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—Our mail has just been received, and it is with deep regret we learn of the death of Thomas McLean, who so anxiously desired to join with us in the work here. His letters indicated a deep sympathy for the poor perishing Heathen, and for their sakes, and for Christ's sake, he nobly consecrated his all. Gladly would we have welcomed him as a co-worker, but the Lord arranged otherwise, and has graciously given him the reward, without enduring the burden and heat of the day. Our field is wide, would that the Lord of the Harvest would thrust forth labourers of a kindred spirit with our departed friend.

On Sabbath last, our meeting here was peculiarly solemn. Isaac Ramdeen, a first fruit of our San Fernando School was baptized. He is 20 years of age, a kind, intelligent, well-behaved young man, reads the English Scriptures with some freedom, has correct views of the way of Salvation, and having good ground to hope that he was savingly interested in Christ, we complied with his request for Baptism. Thus we are gradually gathering around us a band of young men whose hearts the Lord hath touched, in whom we have a growing confidence, and who give cheering promise of usefulness amongst their countrymen. It is quite amazing, the freedom and power that some of them possess in speaking on divine things.

Immediately after Baptism, the Lord's Supper was dispensed—14 Asiatics partook—the services were impressive—we felt as if the Master of the feast was with us. And amongst the spectators were some young men who had received from their Christian countrymen, the invitation, "Come thou with us and we will do thee good," that we believe, will soon join our ranks. The accession of one to our number is, to us, an event which we do thankfully record to the glory of God.

The Hindustani Hymns, just to hand from Halifax, are neatly executed, clear in type, and, considering circumstances, exceedingly accurate. We longed for them, and prized them, the children of our school will be delighted with them, the variety furnished will render the service of praise more refreshing on the Sabbath.

Yours, sincerely,

K. J. GRANT.

REV. P. G. MCGREGOR.

Sec. to B. F. M. of P. C. L. P.

NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

Letter from Rev J. G. Paton.

NEW HEBRIDES,
Aniva, July 26th, 1872. }

REV. P. G. MCGREGOR,—

My dear Sir,—By appointment of our Mission Synod, it is my painful duty to transmit the enclosed minute* and inform you that our beloved brother, the Rev. J. D. Gordon, of Erromango was murdered by the heathen of that island about the 23rd of February last, at his own house there.

NARRATIVE.

For some time previously a party of the heathen had been doing all they could to induce the population to believe that christianity and white men, whether residing on or calling at the island, caused sickness, disease and death among them, and that all white men and native christians should be killed by them. It is also reported that an old chief named *Noai* who was full of this prejudice had 10 young men taken away by a slaver, which led the natives to resolve to take revenge on the first white men calling at their island. Soon after this two children belonging to a man named *Narimpona* died, and as he belonged to the old chief *Noai*, though he had been attending Mr. Gordon's school for six months before that, accompanied by his brother *Nave*, he was prevailed on to begin the work of revenge by murdering Mr. Gordon, as he belonged to the white man's country and was one of them. After this they forbade Mr. Gordon to go on certain roads, and his horse had two arrow wounds on one occasion. By this and the information of the native christians he was aware of his danger, and had chosen a spot in the native burying ground. To the teacher, *Soso*, he pointed it out, and requested him to bury his body there if he was murdered, and to write me a letter, giving any particulars he could, by the first opportunity.

Soso, the teacher, did as his missionary had requested, and on the 25th March, Mr. Smith, a whaler, residing on Erromango, came here in a boat, with a deputation of Erromangans, headed by *Nalig*, (the only christian chief on the island of any importance), who is a young man of great promise, about 18 years of age, to seek advice, and give me two letters. He brought some of his men who speak a little English to help in interpreting, but I give a translation by Rev. Mr. Milne of Nguna, which is more free and connected,—First *Soso's* letter is as followst†

*The minute was published in the last Record.

†Already published in Record for Nov., 1872.