

the present. Some may regret that we had not left sooner and prevented such loss, and others may think we ought not to have left. To all such we can only say we remained at our post as long as possible, and thought it to be our duty to do so, and we entreat them to judge sparingly, and rather to give us and our work on Tanna a continued and deepened interest in their prayers. Do not lose heart. Satan's apparent triumph may be only of short duration. True, to some Tanna may appear to be now what it was twenty years ago; but I believe that there is an amount of religious knowledge communicated and believed even now on Tanna, that all the powers of darkness will not be able to withdraw; and even now on Aneiteum, Mr Matheson has twelve of his Tannese living with him, and daily under his instructions. Let us then examine and learn from the past, diligently improve the present, and hope for victory at no distant day. "Thy will be done." //

We had resolved, before leaving Tanna, to prosecute the study of the language, the translating of the Scriptures, and our work as far as able; but it appeared desirable to all the missionaries that one of us should at present visit the colonies, and bring the interest of the mission before the Presbyterian Churches there, and to urge their Sabbath schools to assist us to procure a vessel of about 70 tons, so as to be able to carry on and extend our work among these islands. Being unanimously appointed, at the urgent request of the other members of the mission, I have reluctantly undertaken this very important and responsible mission. On account of the many reverses and trials of our mission, I go at the worst time; and feeling myself ill qualified for this work, on which so much depends, I entreat the prayers of the Church for God's blessing, which alone can give success; and Oh that he may overrule our trials for good, and greatly increase the missionary zeal of his Church in the extending of Christ's kingdom everywhere among the heathen, is the prayer of, yours, &c.,

JOHN G. PATON.

Rev John Kay, Sec. R. P. F. M. Com.,  
Castle-Douglas.

P. S.—Since we left, a white man has been killed, and another severely wounded.

#### LITERAL TRANSLATION OF A PETITION

SENT SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE FLIGHT OF THE MISSIONARIES, BY CERTAIN CHIEFS OF  
TANNA, TO THE GOVERNOR OF N. S. WALES.\*

The prayer of the Tannese who love the Word of Jehovah to the Great  
Chief of Sydney.

To the Chief of Sydney, the servant of Queen Victoria of Britannia, saying,  
We great men of Tanna dwell in a dark land. Our people are very dark-hearted,  
they know nothing good.

Missi Paton the man, Missi Matheson the man, and Missi Matheson the woman,  
have dwelt here four yams (years) to teach us the worship of Jehovah; their conduct  
has been straight and very good, therefore we love these three missionaries,  
and the worship of Jehovah which they three have taught us Tannese.

Alas! a part, as it were, only three of our chiefs, whose names are Nauka,  
Miaki, Karewick, Ringian, Enukarupi, Attica, and Namaka, they and their people  
hate the worship, and all good conduct like that which the word of Jehovah  
teaches us, and the people of all lands. These men all belong to four villages only;  
they have stolen all Missi's property; they have broken into his house; they have  
cut down his bananas; they have scolded and persecuted him, and they desire to  
kill Missi and to eat him, so that they may destroy the worship of God from the  
land of Tanna.

We hate exceedingly their bad conduct, and pray you the great chief of Sydney  
to punish these dark Tanese who have persecuted Missi, who have deceived Missi,  
who have altogether deceived the Great Chief (Commodore Seymour), and the  
Chief (Captain Hume) of the men-of-war, and who deceived the chief and other  
missionaries in the *John Williams*, who murdered one of Mr Paton's Aneiteum,

\* The original in the Tannese language has been forwarded, but the translation will probably prove to be most for edification.—Ed.