

now endeavoring to build up a cause which a few months ago it was their aim to destroy.

EMPLOYMENT OF NATIVES.

I have been in the habit, for some months past, of sending out ten or twelve of our best men on the Sabbath day to converse and pray with their benighted countrymen. Their labors have been attended with great success, and under God the reaction which has lately taken place in favor of Christianity, must be traced to the agency of these native auxiliaries in the work. In the prosecution of their labors of love, our poor natives sometimes meet with harsh treatment, and only two Sabbaths ago they were violently driven from a heathen village which they visited, and brought home a number of spears which were thown at them.

OPPOSITION FROM TRADERS.

You are aware of the existence of a Sandal-wood establishment on this island. I regret to say that ever since we have been enabled to exert some influence over the natives for good, we have experienced from that quarter a most ungenerous, unfeeling and unmanly opposition. I have been represented as a liar and an impostor and the natives have been told that wherever missionaries go, that disease and death follow in their train. The rage of certain parties has, if possible, burned more fiercely against Mrs Geddie than against myself, perhaps because she has been more directly instrumental in saving some of the poor native females from degradation and ruin. I am happy to add however, that we occasionally meet with individuals who bewail the degeneracy of their countrymen, as well as the opposition offered to the best of causes.

CASE OF MR ARCHIBALD.

I would gladly leave the case of Mr Archibald untouched, as I have hitherto done, but I find from the letter of your Secretary that something must be said "to satisfy craving enquiry on the subject."—If I am not as explicit as you would wish at present, it is because the cause has nothing to gain by being so. I beg, solemnly to assure you as well as the Church at large, that it was not in consequence of any misunderstanding between Mr Archibald and myself, that he tendered his demission to me. I ought however to mention that he consulted me on the subject, and I advised him to retire from the missionary work, as also did the Rev Mr Powell, who

was then on the island. This advice, you may rest assured was not given without due consideration. I hope the above explanation will suffice. As Mr Archibald has now placed himself beyond your control, I do not think the cause would be benefitted by prosecuting the matter any further. He left this island for Sydney about ten days ago, and what his future intentions and prospects are I do not know.

The case of Mr Archibald has been the occasion of much grief to myself, as it will be to you, but it ought not to excite too much surprise. His circumstances have been very peculiar. Had he been sent to a field of labor cultivated in part, associated with a *band* of missionaries and surrounded with influences of a good kind, his career might have been different.

I believe it will be found in the history of Missions that most of failures have occurred in new fields of labor. In writing this, I do not mean to reflect on any person, for in the matter of Mr Archibald's appointment to this Mission, no one is so deeply to blame as myself, for when several of the members of the Board would have paused, I urged them on.

A great trial has befallen our Mission, but let us not be dismayed or discouraged. Perhaps God designs to humble us, to awaken to more vigilance in the choice of agents for his work, and to teach us to turn our confidence from the creature and to place it more firmly and entirely on himself. How often has it happened that events which have been considered as deeply calamitous and over which Christians have mourned as greatly hindering the gospel, have in the providence of God been overruled for its signal and extensive furtherance. Let us still go on in the name and in the strength of **Jehovah** our covenant God, undismayed by adverse occurrences, and many a New Hebridean will at a judgement day rise to bless the Church that sent the word of life to them.

SAD DISAPPOINTMENT—CALL FOR ANOTHER MISSIONARY.

I read with feelings of surprise and dismay in the letter from your Secretary, that no movement had been made to fill up the vacancy in this mission. I had struggled alone for a considerable time amidst difficulties which I believe have fallen to the lot of few missionaries, and cherished an almost confident hope that help was near at hand. Oh, it was *sad, sad, sad* to