

hopeful change had taken place. Additional teachers were left on both Tanna and Anewa, who were received by the people with every demonstration of friendship. On Fotuna, when first visited, but one attended worship, and he but occasionally. Now forty-nine assemble to hear the word of God.

Our hearts have been greatly cheered by tidings from Scotland of some four additional missionaries having been accepted by the Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church. Is there none coming from Nova Scotia? Let them not fear that there is no room for them. The harvest there is great and laborers are few.

### Letter from Rev. J. D. Gordon.

*Dillon's Bay, Erromanga,  
Feb. 20, 1865.*

REV. J. BAYNE,—

The *Kate Kearney*, in the employ of Mr. Henry of this place, returned unexpectedly from Sydney, on the 12th February, bringing to me some ten or twelve letters from different quarters of the world. I was soon forcibly reminded of Cowper's well known piece on the Postman, but this difference that the contents of the whole bag, instead of being distributed among many, fell to my share, making my head and my heart ache. The delicate traces of your pen on the envelope almost made me fancy I was in Halifax. I was glad to hear of your welfare, and to gain some intelligence about church matters, about which I had been so long in the dark. I was prepared to hear of Mr. Geddie's arrival and reception, though not of a visitation of the churches by him. In the list of articles ordered by me for the coming year, are a boat which will cost at least £35 *ster.*, and a tent which will be probably £10 more. So you see my order, in economical principles, was pretty high. The boat is absolutely necessary. The want of it this year has given me many a weary journey. My longest voyage has been seven miles, and twice I have been nearly lost in a canoe. I have slept in native houses, in different places, six or seven nights, and this enables me to decide about a tent, as I shall (D.V.) spend many nights from home during the present year. Had I possessed a boat, probably the circumnavigation of the island would have been made ere this. My first undertaking will be, if spared, to survey the whole island; one by no means insignificant. The population around the bay here is very sparse, discouragingly so. I have had scarcely any living on the place during the last month. The greater part of January there were only about a dozen, old and young, and not one native of the place among them; some of the few that were with us sold themselves to our

wealthier neighbors for a morsel of bread.

We have been subjected to various trials incidental to missionary work. Death has removed two, of late, from the mission circle. Mana was buried on the 30th January. He had been laid aside from active duty several months previous to my settlement. He professed his adherence in life to christianity, lived according to the light which he had, and died in the christian faith. Had he survived, the first Erromanga man and woman baptized, would have been married. That Mana did much for his country none will deny; that he stood firm to the christian religion, when his life was in danger, may be remembered to his lasting advantage; and may be taken as an earnest of attachment to it, commenced by the Holy Ghost, and consummated by him, who, when he begins a good work, will carry it on till the day of Jesus Christ. Another who died a few days ago, *not without hope*, was a pupil of Mana and Joe.

Of a great number of events of which I might inform you, I must make a brief selection, for I begrudge the time spent in writing even this much.

Some time ago a man at one of our stations six miles distant, was murdered. He had, it is said, been violating the seventh commandment, with a Chief's wife, of a place near Benkil. As one or two others had been away from their savage lords to their native settlement, the city of refuge was expecting an attack from their foes, and had been in excitement for a considerable time, fortifying their war caves, &c. This young man that had been transgressing, was, after school one morning, shot with an arrow in the breast, and the next day killed in his house. The man who did this was in the *Dayspring* from her arrival at the group till her departure for Sydney. As he had been there before he did not wish to go again. After our first visit to the island, he and three others had gone to Aneiteum, and he became a favorite on board, I believe.

There are at present nine teachers at work on this island, and I have not yet made any provision for them. The £15 voted for them in Melbourne, and counted in my presence, I have neither seen or heard of since. God willing, there will be twelve thus employed in a few months, and their support would require £60. "Jehovah Jireh."

Another word concerning a coadjutor. I deem it proper to inform you that whatever may have been the policy of my predecessor in this respect, I have made the ground clear. By private solicitation, orally, and by letter, and publicly, Mr. Copeland has been invited, requested and besought to come to this field. I think he is looking this way.