

lion's Bay. The young woman is not a native of this village, but has lived here for several years, and hence is a "City belle".

They make quite a distinction between this village and the less cultured bush-villages, just as much as town and country at home. I get no fee for the marriage, but it is another Christian marriage which strengthens our party, and weakens the heathen party who are, I rejoice to be able to say, almost reduced to a man without any followers.

THURSDAY MORNING, July 30th.

I must now close this long and disconnected letter. I will now write a short letter for the Board which may be published, or those portions of it which the Board may decide as suitable for publication. I deeply regret to close this letter with a report of the loss of 19 (nineteen) of our men of the South side of Erromanga, many of whom were the sons of high chiefs; several were Church members in full standing, and not a few were candidates for Church membership. With one exception they were all young, strong men, and most willing to assist the elders, the teachers, and ourselves in the blessed work of spreading abroad the Gospel of Christ not only to the remaining scattered heathen on their own island, but were under training with a view of going bye and bye to assist missionaries on the islands to which they were appointed only a few years ago, and where as yet, they find it difficult to obtain much help. (This is always the case for the first few years with missionaries placed amongst pure heathen.)

Poor fellows: they foolishly started for Aniwa (a small island lying very low, and the nearest isle where Dr. Paton labored;) there is a population of about 150 people, men, women and children on Aniwa and our Erromangans, even in the days of heathenism, often visited Aniwa where they had friends with whom they exchanged island property, yams, figs, &c. They left here on Monday afternoon, July 20th, or about 17 days ago, and for a few miles they made good progress, but soon they got into a heavier sea, and the boat was seen (from the Erromanga shore) to be making her way across with considerable difficulty and was "close hauled."

Soon the boat disappeared (in the distance) out of sight, and the natives returned from their watching to their evening big meal, or supper. About 9 p. m. the storm began. The wind blew with almost hurricane force, and the rain fell in great quantities, and soon a heavy sea dashed wildly all along the South and S. W. Side of this island, and it was with much difficulty that we secured our large Mission boat here (Dillon's Bay).

Our Mission boat, "Morning Star", was

the great joint gift to me of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland. She was built in Sydney from my own plan, and cost £55 complete. That was in January, 1878; she has since cost for repairs £23, for oars, anchor, chain, sails, paint, etc., about £10, or since given up to us in January, 1878, in all £88, but she has paid that outlay in advancing the work of this Erromanga Mission tenfold, for the Mission work I did by the aid of this fine boat when I dared not go on foot over land—to attempt to do so then would have cost the life of myself and all those brave young fellows who used to go with me then with much personal risk every trip from the rage of the heathen and the rage of the sea; often have I slept in my boat anchored out in some bay and a watch kept all night. I, myself, taking my regular turn of two hours at a time. We dare not sleep on shore. How changed all this now, and to God be all the praise! Not only can we sleep anywhere we please all over this large island with a coast-line of over 100 miles, but we are pressed by chiefs who used to come and sleep in the bush at this very section of Dillon's Bay, watching for the opportunity to burn our houses and shoot or club us if we should attempt to escape through the fire.

To prevent fatal results our Christian young men also banded together and kept watch four hours on and four hours off day and night for as much as two years at a time, (or until certain rage was over for a time, and even yet my people won't allow me to cross Erromanga alone for fear of some remaining savage being paid to waylay me in the lush as I pass on horseback along the narrow track.)

On Sunday last, July 26th, or four days ago, single planks of the whale-boat in which our poor natives had started to Aniwa, and two oars lashed to the main mast, supposed to be so lashed to act as a life buoy to keep them from sinking, were washed ashore at different places along the S. E. and South side of this island, and there seems little doubt left about the fate of the nineteen Erromangans who left South River on Monday afternoon, July 20th, intending to go to Aniwa.

Had they started early in the forenoon, even if they would have arrived at Aniwa before the storm began, as Aniwa cannot be more than about 35 miles from South River, the point in this island from which the boat took her departure for Aniwa, and the storm did not set in until about nine o'clock that evening. But what is the use of statements like this? They did not start early. Natives seldom do any thing quick-