

He told the natives that some medicine which Mr. Gordon gave him had killed him, also that there was no sickness on the island, until they received missionaries, and that the present disease was owing to Mr. G's living among them. The words of Range accorded so well with the superstitions of the natives, that they were readily believed, and the report that the missionary was the cause of the awful mortality soon spread over the island. If the testimony of the natives whom I have examined is correct, the words of Range and of men of whiter skins than his, had more to do with the massacre of our friends, than the unhappy denunciations of Divine anger alluded to. They all say that if *Nivan* had not died, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon would not have been injured. You will be surprised to hear that it is the practice of some of the traders sailing among these islands, to warn the natives against missionaries, as being the cause of disease and death. My own life has often been in peril on this island in the days of heathenism from their cruel insinuations. We do indeed meet with kindness and encouragement from many of our own countrymen who visit these islands; but others are not surpassed in hostility to us and to our work, by our most inveterate heathen enemies. Had we only natives to deal with or the *savages* as they are called, our work on these islands would be comparatively easy.

FLIGHT OF ERROMANGANS TO ANEITEUM.

The death of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon was not sufficient to appease the anger of Range and he has since sought the destruction of the natives, who lived at the mission and others favourable to christianity. He threatened to kill *Mana* himself, the only Erromangan who has been baptized, and told the natives to kill the others. Fourteen males and females have fled to this island for safety and are at present with us. Others favourable to christianity have been ordered to burn their books and destroy their clothing and have complied in most cases. It is said that a few have concealed their books in the bush, and sometimes steal away to read them. Those who came to this island were brought in trading vessels, and I paid a pound each for their passage. One of the number, a hopeful young man, is I am sorry to say in a decline, two more

think much about home, but the rest are contented and happy. Our natives are kind to them and bring them food. We will do what we can to water the good seed sown by our departed friends. Satan has overreached himself in this unexpected persecution on Erromanga. These natives will I trust at no distant day return to their own island, accompanied by a good band of native teachers. Though the work on Erromanga has met with a fearful reverse, yet there is much in the circumstances of that island, to encourage the hope that the gospel of peace and love will yet triumph on it.

The fate of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon will I know be the occasion of much grief and sorrow to relatives and to the Church at large, as it has been to us. It must be cheering to them all to know that they rested on the "Rock of Ages" to the last, and that they died in the best of causes. The last words written in Mr. Gordon's Journal are these:—"Thanks be to God for the measure of faith granted to us in these troublesome perilous times." They died the death of martyrs, and the crown of martyrs will be their reward.

REFLECTIONS.

Alas! that the poor degraded Erromangans should have destroyed their best friends. The only palliation to their crime is the fact, that it was committed under strong delusion, to avenge an imaginary injury, the greatest indeed that could be inflicted on them. I know what my own feelings of indignation were at the inhumanity and cruelty of my own countrymen, who knowingly if not designedly spread the fatal disease among the islands, and I do not wonder at the rage against Mr. Gordon, of persons who had suffered severely themselves, and were mourning the loss of relatives and friends. The deed perpetrated by the Erromangans is only a repetition of the cruelties practised by our own more enlightened ancestors against persons suspected of witchcraft. Instead of indulging sentiments and feelings of revenge, against a dark-hearted and deluded people, let us rather breathe out on their behalf that memorable prayer: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

DETY FOR THE FUTURE.

I trust that the disaster which has be-