

## FOREIGN MISSIONS.

## LETTER FROM REV. JOHN INGLIS.

We have to thank the Rev. JOHN INGLIS in the name of all our readers for the following most interesting and seasonable Letter. We commend it to the profound attention of the Church :—

*Medical Missionary—Williamu weeping for Mr. Gordon—joy mingled with sorrow in the Mission work—recent disasters—death of Missionaries—encouragement to prosecute the work—what other Missions have suffered—desperate diseases requiring desperate remedies—the present a most favourable juncture—a strong force needed—ten or twelve Missionaries should be sent—organization suggested—proposed plan of operations—difficulties to be surmounted.*

NEWTON STEWART, SCOTLAND, Oct. 9th, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR,—

I duly received yours of September 16th. I also received by the same post four numbers of your *Record* from June to September inclusive. I read with much interest the very able article on the present position of the Mission in the September number. I shall feel much obliged by the *Record* being continued. I have missed it very much since January last. I was present at a meeting of our Missionary Committee in Glasgow on the 27th ult. Mr. Kay read your letter to the Committee, and was appointed to write to your Board, which, I have no doubt, he has done. I would have answered yours sooner, but for the last three weeks I have been mostly from home preaching in behalf of the Mission. As regards the most important topic in your letter, the proposal for a medical missionary, I may simply say that, as far as my individual opinion goes, I would consider such an agent a great acquisition to the Mission, provided that both the Churches do, as I trust they will, not only sustain the present number of missionaries, but greatly increase them. Cases have arisen, and no doubt will again arise, when medical skill of a higher order than that possessed by the missionaries would be required: and the very presence of a fully qualified medical practitioner would give confidence to the Mission families, and would prevent painful reflections to relatives and friends at home in the case of sickness and death.

In other circumstances I should have written very briefly at present. But God has been speaking to us such "terrible things in righteousness," and your portion of the Mission has suffered so very severely, that I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without entering somewhat fully into the state and prospects of the Mission. In the first place, allow me to express my sincere and heartfelt sympathy with your Board of Missions, and with the relatives and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, in this most appalling dispensation of God's Providence. My wife and I feel this deeply distressing event very severely: all the more so, as we were both present at their settlement on Erromanga. Williamu has felt their murder more than he did the death of his own wife. The one event he looked upon as coming direct from the hand of God, but the other as caused by the savage barbarity of wicked men. When I told him of the murder he cried like a child, and as soon as he was able to speak he said with great emotion, "*Netho aupat ura, netho aupat ura!*" (Oh their heathenism, oh their heathenism!) The fact, however, that devout men (Christian converts of Erromanga) carried them, like Stephen the proto-martyr, to their burial, and that the chief Erromangan mourner was the murderer of John Williams, is an omen of great significance; it is the golden lining of the darkest cloud that has ever overshadowed the prospects of the Mission. The fact too that Mr. Cope land mentions, in a letter to me, that he has not heard of a single native that sympathized with the burning of Mr. Geddie's Churches, is a pregnant proof of the thorough hold that Christianity has taken of the public mind on Aneiteum. Another fact too, incidentally mentioned by Mr. Paton in one of his letters, that the Aneiteum teachers on Tanna, when sick and dying, "suffered with much patience, read the Scriptures as long as they were able, prayed much with each other, and appeared to derive much consolation