

part at his boat-house on the shore. The vessel had drifted away, so that we could not see her, and were forced to sail for Port Resolution, where we cast anchor in the mouth of the harbour till next morning.

*Tuesday, 4th.*—At daylight, Mr Lewin left with one of the boats to look for the vessel, and we weighed anchor, and went as far as possible, so as to be out of gunshot. During the night, we had lost our rudder, so that we could not follow with a heavy loaded boat, and were forced to remain till the vessel came about 5 p. m. As our boat's crew, our Aneiteumese, and ourselves, had been without food since yesterday morning, and the evening drawing on, but no appearance of the vessel, I got our friend Nowar, to bring us a few cocoa-nuts, and two small roasted yams, which were a morsel to each of us, but only made our thirst and hunger more severe.

On seeing us, Nowar and Miaki came off in a canoe. Nowar was dressed, and kind, and sympathizing, but influenced by Miaki's presence. Miaki was frowning, and urged us, and especially me, to go ashore and see our house; but as we saw a number of armed men near our house, we refused to go. Miaki said our house was uninjured, just as we left it; but Abraham and a party went with him to see it, and found the windows all smashed, my books torn to pieces and scattered around it among the cocoa-nut trees, the type of the printing press also scattered, three casks of flour and two bags of rice partly scattered on the paths to and from our house, and partly taken away; and with their axes they had smashed and cut the piano and other things they could not carry away; and a large body of armed men at the house wanted to kill the Aneiteumese, but Miaki prevented, and urged to kill Missi first. Though the well I had sunk, produced the only drinkable water in Port Resolution, they had filled it with disgusting filth; and all our friends said that Miaki and his friends had carried away even books and chairs to sell to the traders for tobacco and powder (indeed, a white sailor in our boat had one of my stolen shirts on), and that they had completed this work of destruction only two days ago. When the vessel came, Mr Lewin went ashore, and Nowar gave him nearly all the few things of trade I had left with him, and if we could have taken him, he and many of our dear friends would have gone with us to Aneiteum. Miaki said they hated the worship, because, as the people came to worship, their talk and customs were disregarded; but, as their fathers did not destroy Mr Turner's house, so they would not destroy mine, but they would destroy everything else, and us if they could. Two nights before that Miaki and his accomplices had attacked a district in which a chief lived of whose men Miaki killed ten last year. The people having gone to sleep, they filled the large village, placing some at every hut door, and at a given signal murdered men, women, and children indiscriminately. A few fled into the bush, a few ran into the sea and were drowned, and a few others got away into a canoe; but seeing some of their wives and children crying after them on shore, they turned back and clubbed them, for fear they would fall into the hands of the enemy. Thus one of our most powerful Tanna chiefs and all his people have been almost entirely cut off in one night. Such was the statement of Nowar and all the natives we saw, and now they were set on destroying Nowar and his people also. May God restrain them, and bring good out of these shocking events.

At sunset we got to sea, and though our vessel was not much larger than the *John Knox*, we had thirty-two persons and nine dogs on board; but Capt. Hastings was very kind, and did all he could to make us comfortable. We left Tanna, with heavy hearts, imploring God to preserve our friends, and soon to open up the way for us to return and prosecute our work among them; for, though degraded, yet they are our dearly beloved people, for whose spiritual instruction we would spend and be spent. We reached Aneiteum on Saturday the 18th, and found all the members of the mission in good health, but very sorry at our Tanna mission being broken up so unexpectedly. Mrs Matheson, though very weak, stood the voyage better than we expected, and now with kind attentions and changes of society she may improve a little.

My boat is left at Port Resolution. All my personal property, and nearly all my mission property, to the value of about £600 has been stolen and destroyed. This does not include mission houses. And alas! our worship is suspended for