

surprise. I have experienced much kindness here—for Mr. Gordon's sake. I cannot speak too highly of the piety and Christian hospitality of Mrs. Gordon's family.

London, May 17th, 1862.

R. M.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

FLIGHT OF MR PATON, MR MATHESON, AND MRS MATHESON FROM TANA.

TANA, 30th January 1862.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—My last letter informed you that about sixty persons were now attending worship at my station ; that they had put on clothing, that they were busy preparing to erect a new church ; that they were eager to receive spiritual instruction ; that a number of young men had begun to attend worship ; and that, by God's blessing, our work was prospering as it had never done, which had so increased the hatred and opposition of our enemies that war between the two parties seemed inevitable.

Nauka, Miaki, and Karewick united against our people, and gave the challenge to war by killing a fat pig of Sirania's, cutting down my fences and bananas, killing three of my goats, and attempting to kill a chief's son who had come to stay at our house ; and, though fourteen chiefs and their people were on our side, yet, notwithstanding of all these provocations, I got them to promise not to go to war unless some person was killed. Miaki and Nauka now said they would kill Jau by witchcraft, and then they would make a hurricane to destroy Missi's house, and kill him and all who attempted to worship ; for they hated Jehovah and his word, as it caused the people to disregard their word and customs.

Jau, who was one of the most powerful chiefs on my side of the island, and one of my best friends, took ill and died in a few days ; and a week after that we had a fearful hurricane, which destroyed yams and bananas, fruits and fruit trees, fences and houses, but left our mission-houses uninjured. Therefore, the inland people assembled in thousands to assist Sirania, Manuman, and our friends, to take revenge on Miaki and our enemies for all their base conduct.

The day after the hurricane Miaki came with all his associates to shoot me ; but on seeing his forbidding appearance I asked for his wife, who was about to be confined, and gave him a blanket, a piece of calico, and a piece of soap, which he received, and after consulting with his followers, and shewing much hatred to us, they left.

Next morning (Saturday 18th) the war began ; and as I had done my utmost to prevent it, both parties now urged me to keep my house, and they would do us no injury. But Miaki and his party took shelter, and fought round our houses, and though the balls fell thick near to it, God protected us from all harm. Jau's people now retired, and Nauka and Miaki gave a large present of food to the Inikahi and Kasirumini people to help them to fight Missi and the natives who now attended worship. The present was accepted, and they agreed to "kill and cook Missi and his two Aneiteumese at every village on Tana, to steal all their property, and to burn all their houses." Our bodies were to be cut into small pieces, so that they might be sent to be cooked at all the public villages. So at five P. M. the whole party left to raise reinforcements for next morning, and Miaki and his friends assured me that the present was given to keep them from doing me farther injury.

Next morning (Sabbath 19th), at daylight our house was again surrounded by thousands of savages, howling and yelling. Miaki again sent them word to "kill Missi, steal all his property, and burn his houses." So, headed by Karewick, Esukarupi, and Ringian, the Inikahi and Kasirumini people began by discharging muskets at our house, and then they tried to beat in the walls with their clubs. They then smashed the window and door of my store-house, broke open boxes and casks, tore my books to pieces and scattered them about, and stole all that they