

heathen, and especially of those belonging to Portinia Bay. Our position towards each other was much, very much, better before the arrival of the Ship of War. Better, ten thousand times, she had never come at all, than COME TO DO NOTHING, and sail away to be laughed at by the heathen ere she had scarcely vanished out of sight. The action taken by our persecuted natives was made an excuse by Captain Moresly to do nothing. Mr. Gordon, a British subject and a christian missionary, living quietly on this island by the request of the people, and thoroughly master of the whole five languages spoken on the island, well acquainted with all the tribes and they with him, and after nearly eight year's labour among them, was barbarously murdered in cold blood by a native who for six month's attended school and church, and hence was not ignorant of Mr. Gordon's mission. Five Chiefs arranged that Gordon's life, being the greatest power on the island for the worship of God, must be taken, and Nerimpon is the wretch who strikes the blow.

Now, this man Nerimpon "child of the devil" and the enemy of all righteousness," is still at large on this island! Burning shame!! say I. The death of this man's child was, so far as I can find out, the exciting cause of the murder. No medicine was given the child, but the heathen mind is so filled with the most gross and absurd superstition that sickness and death, as well as every other untoward circumstance, is charged to the new religion or to the anger of their own gods, because of the natives' acceptance thereof and the rejection of theirs.

The "*Defiance*" arrived here the other day from Sydney, bringing letters, magazines and papers to all the missionaries of the group. She brought me a fine lot of *Records* and *Witnesses* which come most regularly; but I had no letter from *Nova Scotia*! A letter for me now from *Nova Scotia* would be almost as novel a sight as a snowstorm: but I feel sure I will get not a few in due time. My faith in my many friends cannot be shaken by the nonappearance of letters, thence within twelve months after our departure from *Nova Scotia* for the islands. It's just twelve months

to-day since we sailed from Halifax. How time flies! The "*Defiance*" sails this evening for Sydney, so that I must bring this letter to a close.

I am building a new house 50 x 16 feet, with a verandah all round 6 feet wide. The foundation is finished. It is built of solid stonework 5 feet high. On this we hope to put the house, which I expect in about four weeks in the "*Dayspring*" from Melbourne. I have a boat, procured by the late Rev. James McNair, late of this station, the "*yarra, yarra*." She is a magnificent sea boat. I made a passage to Aniwa, an island 50 miles S. E., of this, last month in her. Mrs. Robertson went with me. We spent ten days with Mr. and Mrs. aton, and we sailed most of the way home.

Nerimpon, the murderer of Mr. Gordon, died when we were at Aniwa.

Yours ever,

H. A. ROBERTSON.

The following is a copy of the agreement signed by the natives in presence of Captain Moresly, of the *Basildon*, referred to in Mr. Robertson's letter.

We, the undersigned Chiefs do hereby declare that having seen the Man-of-War, and the Man-of-War having told us that four of our men been killed for killing the missionary, we will henceforth live at peace with the christians and the missionaries, and if we do not we know a Man-of-War will come and punish us.

Noai, (his x mark.)

Naling, (his x mark.)

Naenig, " x "

Worisanngare, " x "

Porteillo, " x "

Witnesses, { David B. Gray.  
Charles Smith.  
Sydney Smith, Lieut R.N.

*Dillon's Bay, Sept. 2, 1872.*

### A Year in Kansas.

MR. EDITOR.—Having resided for the last twelve months in this frontier State, perhaps a few statements with regard to the country may not be wholly uninteresting to at least some of the readers of the *Record* in *Nova Scotia*, provided you deem them worthy of insertion. Therefore I will briefly touch upon three points, viz., the natural ad-