

at our desire would be a positive calamity to our mission. Our enterprise is one of mercy and not of judgment, and we forget our high office when we invoke the vengeance of earthly power on the benighted natives around us. If we would succeed among these islanders we must draw them with the cords of love, and beware of everything that would repel them. The rebuke of Christ to the two disciples who wished fire from heaven to consume their enemies is always memorable, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." My own practise has always been in accordance with my views. During the early years of the Aneiteum mission I passed through many perils, and suffered the loss of property also; but the idea of requesting a man-of-war to punish the natives never occurred to my mind, and no complaint was ever made by me. I may state also that after the death of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon on Erromanga, when Commodore Seymour spoke of shelling the district in which the murderers lived, I opposed this on the ground that the natives had acted under the influence of superstition and at the instigation of others, and so instead of being "greatly disappointed that nothing was done at Erromanga," I was greatly pleased that no punishment was inflicted on the natives. I think the general impression of missionaries and others who know me is, that I would have taken no part in late events if I had been here at the time. The first missionary of the London Society who wrote me after the *Curacoa's* visit to Tanna, says, "I do not think that you would have gone on such an expedition." A sandal wood trader, in speaking to me lately on the same subject, said, "This would not have happened if you had been here." It is due to Mr. Inglis to say that the subject was not a practical one before he left the islands for Britain, and there was little said about it after his return.

I come now to speak of the *Curacoa's* visit to the islands, and I shall confine my remarks to her doings on Tanna; as this is the only island on which anything effective was done. At the time of her arrival the

missionary brethren were holding their annual meeting on Aneiteum. They felt it to be their duty to present a memorial to Commodore Wiseman stating grievances against the natives, and asking for the redress of these; they wished him also to take such steps as he might deem proper to render life and property more safe in time to come. The brethren saw their way more clear to this, because they understood that a request had already been presented by this mission to the Governor-General of New South Wales for a man-of-war to visit these islands, and investigate the murders and outrages committed on them. I understood, says Mr. Inglis, that "Mr. Geddie and every member of the mission then in the field concurred in it;" and thus was the understanding of others also. This must refer to a memorial signed by Mr. Copeland and myself in which there is a simple request for the removal of a dangerous British subject from Erromanga, and there is not a word of complaint against the natives in it. Our brethren could scarcely have entered on so serious a matter as calling in a man-of-war under more disadvantageous circumstances. All the events complained of against the Tannese had taken place before Messrs. Morrison, Gordon and McCullagh had arrived at the islands; and most of them during the absence of Mr. Inglis to Britain. It was most unfortunate that Mr. Paton, the chief complainant, should have been alone at such a time, for we know that from the depressing effects of disease and harassing trials, he was often led to take too gloomy a view of passing events. All parties we believe acted for the best, and if any error has been committed their peculiar circumstances must be the excuse.

The missionaries having prepared their memorial waited on the Commodore, who courteously received them, and promised to do every thing in his power to carry out their wishes. As he could not hold intercourse with the natives he requested that some of their number should act as interpreters, and that the *Dayspring* should go in company also. These requests being acceded to the expedition sailed for the island