

to suppress slavery will put a stop to such outrages on human rights.

CLOUDS PASSING AWAY.

I am sure you will unite with us in thankfulness to God for some of the information which this letter contains. The clouds which have passed over the mission begin to disappear, and the time to favour these dark islands seems to draw nigh. We are fast recovering lost ground, and the work might be extended to more distant islands, if we had an adequate number of native teachers. Our great drawback at the present time is the want of native agency. It is quite as much as this island, with its reduced population, can do to furnish teachers for Tana, Erromanga, Niua, and Futuna, where they are more acceptable than Eastern teachers. The teachers from the Eastern islands would suit better for the northern islands than our natives, as the inhabitants are more like themselves, but it seems like sending them to their graves to settle them there. It is not probable that many Rarotongan or Samoan teachers will come to this group, as the climate is so fatal to them; and it is with deep regret that we give up the idea of much help from that quarter. The Eastern Polynesian churches seem disposed to choose more congenial climates as outlets for their missionary zeal. It will be necessary to make some change in our plans to extend the missionary work on this group, if it is to be carried on on an extensive scale. The plan which seems most to commend itself at present is to bring natives from the various islands to Aneiteum, endeavour to instruct them in the principles of divine truth, and send them home as pioneers of the gospel among their own countrymen. The Bishop of New Zealand has acted on this plan for several years, and though the results have not equalled his expectations, yet he has prepared the way for missionaries on several of the islands visited by him. But our duty is clear to go forward in our work, as the New Hebrides come within the range of the Redeemer's commission, "to preach the gospel to every creature." The difficulties which appear in the distance will vanish or become less as we approach them. If God has work for us to do here, he will furnish all the necessary appliances for it.

The prospect of a reinforcement of missionaries is very cheering to us. There is a great harvest to be reaped on these islands, but alas! how few the labourers. I trust that the brethren who are coming to our help may soon be followed by others. Those who have given themselves up to the work of the ministry ought not to be dismayed by the calamities which have befallen our mission. We have had our reverses it is true, but these should not discourage, but rather

lead us to more humble and prayerful dependence on God in whose work we labour. If this is their effect on us, it may yet appear that the things which seemed to be against us, were all designed for our good, and that they will yet turn out for the furtherance of the gospel.

I remain,
Very sincerely yours,
JOHN GEDDIE.

Rev. Jas. Bayne,
Sec. B. F. M., P. C. I. P.

Religious Intelligence.

Madagascar

During the past month we have received only one brief communication from the Rev. William Ellis, which, although it adds but little to the intelligence conveyed in our last number, tends to confirm our hopes of the stability of the present Government, and the continuance of perfect religious freedom to our Christian Brethren in the capital, and, indeed, throughout the country. The letter of our friend bears date July 28th. and contains the following passages:—

"We are all in quietness here, but discouraging reports frequently arrive from the provinces, and some disturbances have taken place, chiefly connected with cattle-stealing on a large scale, attended with the loss of life. I am, however, assured by the highest authorities that there is no ground to apprehend any danger to the existing order of things.

"While I have been writing the above, a karbary or message has been delivered close to my house, announcing the defeat and dispersion of the parties creating disturbance in the west, and cañons fired to celebrate the victory."

These brief statements effectually disprove the sinister reports which have found their way to Paris, and been freely circulated in the French journals, to the effect that the tribes of the interior were in a state of rebellion, the capital in danger, and the military forces of the Queen destroyed to the extent of thousands.

The letter of Mr. Ellis contains also the following brief passage, which evinces the diffusion of the Gospel, and its wide and extended influence in the remote provinces of Madagascar:—

"The arrival of representatives from distant provinces, to take the oath of allegiance to the new Sovereign, has made us acquainted with the existence of Christians among remote and important tribes, in which we