

source but to go in quest of another. A large enough one was got, but from the delay, it was nearly low water, and *John Knox* hard and fast on the rock, with only two feet of water under her stern. Finding that she was immovable, our object was to prevent her going farther ashore when the tide began to make. About three, A. M. by the assistance of the tide and a couple of blocks on the cable, we got her afloat. She was thus in rather critical circumstances for about six hours, broadside on to the sea and wind, and rolling from side to side on her keel, and bringing the planks on her sides alternately in contact with the rock. Before we got her off, she had a good deal of water in her, so that we knew she had sustained damage somewhere. We had her brought ashore without delay to see what injury she had sustained. The copper was stripped from under her keel; the keel itself was worn in one or two places by friction on the stone, and one of her planks was split for about a foot and a half. We got a seaman to repair temporarily the plank, and having renewed the metal, she was again shoved afloat.

In one of your letters on the new ship, you mentioned that, to the mind of the Committee, "my letter did not present any cogent present necessity" why a new ship should be procured. I thought I had mentioned several weighty reasons why an effort should be made; perhaps what has occurred to the *John Knox* during the last season may furnish another to the former list.

A Description of the Natives of Aneiteum.

Mr. COPELAND thus describes the people among whom he labours:—

Physically they are an inferior race. They are short of stature, being on an average below the middle size. They appear little of stature even in their spare dress. The wearing of clothes makes a great difference. A naked savage appears very tall, but when he puts on clothes, he is seemingly reduced several inches. The Aneityumese are neither black nor copper-coloured; that is, they are not so dark as the pure negroes, not so fair as the yellow Malays. In the islands farther north, the natives are darker than up here. There is, however, a considerable variety. Some might pass for Malays, but for their hair. The soles of their feet, the palms of their hands and between their fingers, are much lighter than the rest of the skin.

Their hair is of different colours. Of some it is jet black, of many it is a mixture between red and fair—not a pretty colour in our eyes. Some have it straight, others curly, but of the majority it is like wool.—Generally it is coarse and dense, like a bunch

of fog or bush of heather. It would be difficult for them to put up their hair as we do. We have some half-caste children with straight hair. In colour they are not much fairer than some of the pure natives. We have also some Albinoes, whose leopard-like bodies have a very sickly appearance.—Among white people we see what are called dark, grey, and blue eyes; among these natives there is only the one colour, the dark. Their sense of sight is very acute. They recognise individuals at a great distance, and the sails of ships when far out at sea.

The nose is flatter than with Europeans, not so well defined, and very low just between the eyes. The lips are, generally speaking, not thick, like those of the pure negroes. The teeth are well set, white, and for the most part sound.

The beard is not abundant. Their countenances, as a whole, are not forbidding.—Some are rather good-looking. Of a few the head is almost European, with most the chin and forehead retreat considerably.

They are full bellied, more so than white people; they are also fleshier, though none of them are corpulent. Their feet are generally well-formed, and spread gradually from the heel to the toes, where the foot attains its greatest breadth. With some the big toe inclines outward, as if they had worn shoes. Their walking is graceful and easy. A few pass the toes of the one foot over those of the other, as if they had learned to walk on some very narrow path. They are not possessed of the most vigorous constitutions. I would say they are tender. They suffer a great deal from sickness. When well they expose themselves to undue fatigue and sudden changes of temperature, and the bad effects that follow from remaining in wet clothes. When they are taken ill, the flesh falls off them rapidly; when recovering, they gain it as rapidly. The more common diseases are headache, pain in the stomach, sore ribs, shortness of breath, colds, fever and ague, and itch. There is a good deal of the scrofulous diathesis about them, which manifests itself in swellings and chronic sores, which are difficult to heal.—The word in this language corresponding to sick is also their word for being cold, I suppose because every ailment is accompanied with more or less of fever in its cold stage. The diseases I have mentioned are not particularly virulent, if proper means and care are used; but the natives know so little, and have so few of what may be called the comforts of life, that few attain to old age. Tooth ache is much less common than with us. There are rare cases of squinting, blindness, deafness, dumbness, flat soles, and other abnormal states of the body, as with us. They are active, and not so indolent naturally as many tribes of whom we read. They are expert climbers, and feel quite at home in