

ill qualified to train up their children in the way that they should go. They candidly confess their inability and in most cases would cheerfully transfer their children to our care. We might have most of the children on the island, if we could undertake so great and so serious a charge. But there are some parents to whom these remarks will not apply, and I trust that these exceptions will become more numerous. I may say however, that we labour with much encouragement, for which we desire to thank God. Though many give evidence that they have never felt the power of saving truth on their hearts, yet not a few appear to be in earnest about the one thing needful. There are Christians in reality among us as well as Christians in name, and I believe that the Redeemer's crown will be adorned with gems gathered from this distant isle of the sea.

It will gratify you to hear that Missionary meetings have been held this year, and collections made for the first time for the support of the gospel. These meetings were held at Mr. Copeland's station, and my own. At each meeting the number present must have been about twelve hundred. The whole amount collected at the two stations was as follows: Money, £2 4s., cocoa nut oil, 10 gallons, arrow root 5400 lbs. We have now 20 barrels of superior arrow root put up and ready for shipment, and some hundreds of pounds of inferior quality in bags. It will be sent most probably to Sydney when an opportunity occurs. The money realized from the sale will be paid over to our agent in Sydney, and equally divided between our respective churches. I cannot give you any idea of the probable amount likely to be realized from the sale of the arrow root. The Sydney market is about the worst that it could be sent to, but we have no opportunity of sending it to another. I am told that the price there is seldom less than 3d. per lb. and rarely exceeds 6d. As the arrow root made on this island is of superior quality, and needs no process of refinement before it is fit for use, like most of the South Sea arrow root, it ought to bring a good price. If it does not sell well in Sydney we must endeavour to find a market for it elsewhere. I am sure you will esteem this contribution not so much on account of its material value as the spirit which it manifests. I hope that the time is not far distant when this island will be little burden to the churches at home. The natives seem willing to do what they can to help themselves. I ought also to mention that at our missionary meetings 200 native female dresses and a quantity of mats were collected for the neighbouring islands. These are very valuable to the teachers and also as presents to friendly chiefs. As the dresses and mats are superior to those made on the islands around they are much prized by the natives.

As Mr. Johnston may not be able to send you letters by this opportunity I may mention that I accompanied him and Mrs. Johnston to Tana last month. Then have taken up their abode with Mr. Paton for the present. In the mean time they will study the language, and Mr. Johnston will endeavour to open up a station for himself. He and Mr. Paton have recently been exploring parts of the island not yet visited by missionaries. In a letter which I received from Mr. Johnston he expresses himself delighted with the beauty and fertility of Tana, but deeply affected with the moral degradation of the people. I was much pleased with my visit to Tana. As I had not been there for a considerable time I could observe a change for the better. Many villages formerly hostile to christianity have received teachers, and others would do so if we had persons to send to them. A teacher is now residing among the people in Mr. Paton's district, who formerly drove the missionaries from Tana.

The work on the other islands, as far as I know, is in a hopeful state. Our latest news from the teachers residing on them are encouraging. There are at present seventeen Aneiteum teachers, married men, labouring on the islands, distributed as follows—On Futuna four, on Tana nine, on Mira two, and on Fate two. These simple and devoted men have been honoured by God to do much in preparing the islands for the gospel, at the expense of much self denial, suffering and danger. Their labours may not be so visible or so extensively known as ours, but they are no doubt recorded in heaven. They, as well as we, have a strong claim on the sympathies and prayers of the Church. But while native teachers are indispensable as pioneers, and when wisely led prove valuable auxiliaries in the work of evangelization, yet our great want at present is missionaries.