

the father of the mission, offered his services to the Board, and was accepted as their first missionary to the South Seas. The appointment took place in November, 1845. About the same time the services of a catechist were secured. It was not, however, until July 13th, 1848, that these brethren with their families reached Aneiteum. The interval had been occupied in necessary preparation for departure from Nova Scotia, in the passage to the Samoas and in determining the special field of labour. The London Missionary Society's agents on these islands not only rendered valuable aid to our missionaries by imparting to them the fruits of generous hospitality and missionary experience, but appointed one of their own number (Mr. Powell) and seven of their native teachers to be co-workers with them. Mr. Powell left the mission September 1850, and the catechist resigned his charge within a few months of the same date. With the exception of the Samoan teachers, who still remained, Mr. Geddie was the only missionary now on the island. Undismayed by the unbroken mass of heathenism which surrounded him, this faithful servant of Christ struggled through the dark period of well nigh two years of almost solitary labour. His own life and that of his wife and family were in continual peril, not only from the heathen tribes, but from European traders, whose worldly craft was in danger to be set at naught. The labours of the devoted missionary were, however, singularly blessed during this trying period: thus manifesting clearly that while his former associates "were scattered every one to his own and had left him alone, he yet was not alone, for the Father was with him." In May 1852 the first Christian Church in the New Hebrides was organized. Fifteen natives were baptized, of whom thirteen were adults. In this very important step Mr. Geddie counselled with the agents of the London Missionary Society, who at this time visited Aneiteum.

Mr. Inglis, of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Scotland, was induced by our missionary to leave his station in New Zealand, with a view to permanent location on the New Hebrides. The co-operation of these two brethren commenced in July 1852, and has continued from that date to the present, with the full consent and cordial support of their respective Churches. The history of the Aneiteum mission thus organized has been one of signal and uninterrupted progress.

PRESENT STATE OF WORK THERE.

In his last journal Mr. Geddie details the results of twelve years' labours. Ten years from the first formation of the Church under his care we find the membership 179. Some of these are teachers in the neighbouring islands. Besides a Deacons' Court, having in charge the temporalities of the Church, he has a Session consisting of seven members, each of whom has a certain number of church-members assigned to his charge, whom he visits and with whom he holds meetings for conversation, exhortation and prayer. At the meetings of Session each elder gives a report of the state of religion in his district. The number of schools on the island is between fifty and sixty, and these are attended by the whole population, with few exceptions. At each of the two mission stations there is an advanced school, where, in addition to reading, lessons are given in writing, arithmetic, geography, &c. These schools are select, and many of those who attend are likely to become teachers. Mrs. Geddie superintends the school in her husband's district. Having about ninety scholars in attendance she is assisted by some of the native teachers and their wives.

Besides his regular work of ministerial and pastoral services Mr. Geddie is much employed in Bible translation. In conjunction with Mr. Inglis he has so far perfected the New Testament Version as to warrant the application of their respective Churches to the British and Foreign Bible Society, London, for the printing of a large edition. In order to prosecute to the best advantage the work of revision, and the superintendence of the press, Mr. Inglis has returned to Scotland, where he is now engaged with his native assistant in perfecting the version. From the well known ability, integrity and industry of the translators, we are justified in anticipating that this version of the New Testament will prove the most faithful and perfect ever committed to the British and Foreign Bible Society. The regret which this Synod must feel that Mr. Inglis has not been able to accept the invitation tendered to him by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church Nova Scotia to visit the Churches in Nova Scotia, and as was fondly hoped, in sufficient time to meet