

of date September 15th, so that it was probably sent by some whaler or trader which did not call at Sydney for some six or eight months after touching at Aneiteum.

With the letter were received seven small publications from the Press of Aneiteum, from four to twelve pages each, with a few wood cuts. Five of these are in the dialect of the Aneiteumese, one in the dialect of Fotuna, and one in that of Tana. For each of these three Islands a first Book, has been prepared and published. There is a specimen copy of each of these. In the language spoken at Aneiteum there is a Catechism, two little works consisting apparently of Scripture selections, and a small collection of Hymns. These little works are interesting as the commencement of religious literature among a people emerging from the darkness of heathenism to the light of christian truth, and as constituting part of the means by which they are to be raised from barbarism to civilization.

ANEITEUM, NEW HEBRIDES,  
January 10th, 1856.

MY DEAR BROTHER,—

I received a kind letter from you about two years ago, which I duly acknowledged, and for which I feel grateful to you. Letters are very precious here, cut off as we are from the society of those we esteem and love. If our dear friends only knew how we value them, and how they seem to revive us and freshen us for our work, I think they would feel it to be a duty to write. I have often been surprised at the silence of my former acquaintances, but no doubt many letters have been written which have never reached us.

I am sure you will unite with us in thankfulness to God that he has inclined so many of these poor islanders to receive his word. Heathenism with its worst abominations has been overthrown, and christianity is now the acknowledged religion of the island. The word of God, under the divine blessing, has effected a great and happy change here. But you must not infer from what I write that the Aneiteumese are a highly religious people. We are ever meeting with cases of ignorance, superstition and deep rooted depravity, which show us that, though a great work has been done, a great work still remains to be accomplished. Yet we are so much encouraged by what

we have been permitted to see, that apart from the cheering predictions of Scripture, we cannot entertain a doubt of the ultimate triumph of the gospel in these dark isles of the sea.

In the case of this island we have an additional evidence of the power of the gospel of Christ to accomplish great moral results upon fallen man. The preaching of a crucified Saviour alone has brought down the mighty fabric of superstition among this people. I believe that missionaries will succeed among the heathen just in so far as they follow the example of the great apostle of the Gentiles, and determine to know nothing save "Jesus Christ and him crucified." This is the doctrine that truly and surely undermines the kingdom of Satan in the lands of darkness and completes its overthrow. Not long since we had a visit from some natives of Tana. I sent our chief Nohoat, who understood their language, to speak to them. I afterwards asked him what passed at their interview. He said they wished the word of God, but thought they could not make the sacrifices it required. He told them not to be afraid of the sacrifices which christianity required, that, though they now appeared hard, when their hearts were enlightened they would appear easy. When *Misi* came among us, (he said,) if he had told us to cut off our long hair, clothe our naked bodies, give up our wives, cease from fighting and feasting, we would have been enraged at him, and driven him away. But when he commenced the work of God among us, he told us of sin, salvation, heaven and hell. When he spoke about these things we listened and thought and gladly gave up our dark customs. It will be so with you Tanese when missionaries go to your island. They will tell of these things, and you will wish to forsake the things you now love. Do not reject God's word and say it is too difficult to give up your old customs, this will be easy when the light enters your hearts.

The gospel has been an unspeakable blessing to these poor islanders, and many I believe feel it to be so. The present generation prize their privileges more, perhaps, than their children will, because they are more sensible of the dark and awful abyss from which they have been rescued by it. It would be hard for persons brought up in christian lands to form any just idea of the awful horrors of heathenism. It seems almost