

Missionaries, but soon after that church began a Mission in Africa, and being unable to take up the South Seas also, it was proposed that the branch of their church in Nova Scotia should do so. The Nova Scotian Church gladly assented to this, and chose the Rev. John Geddie, a man full of faith and Missionary zeal, to be their first Missionary. It was arranged that he was to work under the direction of the London Missionary Society, and that he would settle wherever the Missionaries in Samoa thought best. He, his wife, and two little children left Nova Scotia in the year 1846, and after a long trying voyage and some necessary detention at the Samoan Islands, set sail from them in the Mission ship "The John Williams" for the New Hebrides, which had been chosen as the scene of their labours, and in the year 1848, settled on An-neit-yum, the most southern of the group, an island fifty-five miles in circumference, and with a population of about four thousand. They were accompanied by an experienced Missionary and his wife from Samoa, who went to help to start the new Mission, and stayed a year, and there were already on the island two Samoan teachers who stayed with Mr. Geddie, and were a great help. At that time the inhabitants were all heathen, fierce naked cannibals, and for three years after the Missionary from Samoa left. Mr. and Mrs. Geddie and their little children were alone with no friends to help or cheer them but the Samoan teachers. Sometimes they had very little food, for the natives would not sell them any, and often their lives were in danger. One man afterwards confessed that once he hid behind a bush, with his club raised, ready to kill Mr. Geddie as he passed, but that when he did, something seemed to hold back his arm so that he could not strike. Thus God protected His faithful servants, and they never lost patience or hope. Mr. Geddie was almost as clever with his hands as Mr. Williams had been, and he had such a kind manner and such skill in dealing with the natives, that they soon got to trust him and to listen to his teaching. Both he and his wife learned the difficult language very quickly, and soon they began to translate the Scriptures and other books, and to teach the people to read them. We can scarcely imagine how hard it must be to translate books into a language without an alphabet, grammar or single written word, and which when spoken sounds as if all the words