

instructors. He writes, "I have visited some of the inland districts which have expressed their willingness to receive Aneiteum teachers, and others have applied for them, so that with advantage I could dispose of six or more, more if you can possibly supply them: and if not I fear the work will suffer here: therefore I entreat you to do your best." In compliance with Mr. Paton's request, Mr. Copeland and I sent off the five married teachers to whom I have alluded in a former part of this letter, and a sixth will follow soon. It must be cheering to Mr. Paton amidst all his trials to see the darkness beginning to break around him. He was, I believe, eminently successful as a home missionary, and he is likely to become equally so in the foreign field. May his valuable life be long spared. He is an excellent and devoted man.

Since I last wrote, the *John Knox* has commenced her work for the season. She has just returned from her second voyage to the neighbouring islands, and is preparing for a third. The tidings which she brings, as far as her visits have extended, are cheering. These islands are fast opening up to the gospel. May God raise up and send forth suitable men to occupy them. Our brethren, Messrs Turner and Inglis, left with the intention of making urgent appeals for missionaries for the New Hebrides, and I trust they will not plead in vain.

At a meeting of the mission, held when the *John Williams* was here, the following among other resolutions was passed. "That Messrs Geddie and Copeland be appointed to write a letter to the Synods of the Presbyterian Churches of the neighbouring colonies, and bring the claims of the New Hebrides group, as a field of missionary labour, before them; and invite their assistance in whatever way they may be disposed to co-operate." In compliance with this resolution, we have sent letters to New Zealand, Victoria, and New South Wales. We have not yet received answers to our appeals, but I trust that something will be done. Our letter to the Synod of Victoria would reach Melbourne about the time of Mr Johnston's arrival there, and we hope that he has been usefully employed pleading the claims of this mission.

The only death in the mission during the year has been that of a Rarotongan teacher stationed on Niua, last October. About six or eight weeks after he was landed on that island, he left with his wife and daughter in a trading vessel bound to Erromanga. Mr Gordon sent his widow and daughter to this island, where they will probably remain until the return of the *John Knox* from England. They have both suffered from fever and ague. The two Aneiteum teachers on Niua were well when visited last month. They speak favourably of the conduct of the people towards them. This is the island on which one of our teachers was killed last year.

I trust that you will unite with us in grateful acknowledgment to God for all his mercies to this mission, and in earnest prayer for his blessing on all engaged in his work.

I remain very sincerely yours, &c.,  
JOHN GEDDIE.

Rev. James Bayne, S.c. B. F. M.

#### SECOND LETTER.

*Intended formation of Presbyteries—Co operation of the Scottish and Nova Scotian Missionaries essential—The Synod to be asked for authority.*

ANEITEUM, Aug. 1st., 1860.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—

At a meeting of the members of the New Hebrides Mission, which took place at this island on July 24th, a resolution was passed, appointing Mr. Copeland and myself to correspond with our respective churches, on the subject of forming a Presbytery or Presbyteries, in this group of islands.

The general business of this mission has hitherto been transacted by such of the brethren as could conveniently assemble when there was occasion for a meeting. In the early years of the mission this was the only arrangement that we could adopt, and thus far it has suited our circumstances well. But as missionaries are now increasing, and as we have, on one of the islands at least, church members, elders and sessions, it seems as if the time were drawing near when we