

rect, being drawn either from the impressions of the past, or from some special case, or, perhaps, from attention to some Pole, Spaniard or Turk, who may just as well be a Polish or Spanish Christian, or Turkish Mussulman, as a Jew. These great events in delineation arise from the supposition that because they are Hebrews, they must be different from any other race. They are distinct in feature and religion, but in nothing else. Take the text of the human race as it is, as individuals, neither wholly good nor wholly evil, as a people, the virtues very greatly predominate. Even in the lowest and most degraded classes, we seldom find those awful crimes with which the public records teem. This perhaps may arise from the fact, that the numerous and well-ordered charities of the Jews prevent those horrible cases of destitution, and the consequent temptation to sin, from which such a mass of crime proceeds. A Jewish beggar by profession is a character of us, nor do we see the kind of or defamed belonging to this people lingering about the streets. The virtues of the Jews are essentially of a domestic and social kind. The English are noted for the comfort and happiness of their families; and, in this lordliest school of virtue, the Hebrews are not only equal, but in some instances surpass their neighbors. From the highest class to the most indigent, affection, reverence, and tenderness, mark their domestic intercourse. They, sometimes four generations may live together, and the women performing the blended duties of parent, wife, and child; the man, those of husband, father, and son. As members of a community, they are industrious, orderly, temperate, and contented; as citizens, they are faithful, earnest, and active; as the native denizens of Great Britain, ever ready to devote their wealth and personal service in the cause of their adopted land.—*London Jewish Herald*.

THE INHABITANTS OF ANIETUM.

BY THE REV. JOHN GEDDIE.

I sent your instructions to you dated in December last, since which I hope you have received. As favorable opportunity has since occurred of sending letters to you, or I should not have been silent so long. This letter goes by a vessel which has touched at this island on her way to Oboya, and as my notice has been short, I must confine myself to a single sheet.

I received a letter from the Rev. James Wadell, under date August 21, 1851. It was refreshing to hear from you, and afford me a prospect of nearly two years. I read with delight the account which that letter gives of the prosperity of our beloved Zion, in Nova Scotia, and of a continued interest in the cause of missions.

Since I last wrote to you, there has been much affliction in the mission. All our native teachers and their wives have suffered severely from fever and ague. Two of their number, a Kanongwan man and a Sakhon woman, died, the former in March, and the latter in June. I was present with them in their dying moments, and they departed this life in the hope of a blessed immortality beyond the grave. I had slight attacks of intermittent fever in the month of April, and also my daughter Lucretia, Mrs. Geddie and our youngest child escaped.

The history of the mission for the last nine months has been one of great trials, and I will also add, of great encouragements. The struggle between Heathenism and Christianity has begun on this island, and must go on until the latter is established on the ruins of the former. The natives who have given up the old system, have been much persecuted by their heathen countrymen. The plantations of many have been destroyed, their property stolen, and in some instances life has been endangered. These trials, I rejoice to say, have in most cases been endured with a fortitude and a faith, scarcely to be expected from a people just emerging from a state of barbarism.

Our prospects at the present time are more cheering than at any former period since we landed on the island. After a night of toil it seems as if the dawn of a bright and happy day were not far distant. The whole population are in a state of excitement about the respective claims of the old and new systems, in so far as such a people are capable of being excited on such a subject, and many are coming over to the Lord's side. We have lately been aided by many of our countrymen, who are now endeavouring to build up a cause which a few months ago it was their aim to destroy.

I have been in the habit, for a few months past, of sending out ten or twelve of our best men on the Sabbath day to converse and pray with their benighted countrymen. Their labours have been attended with great success, and under the influence of such a policy, it is likely taken place in favour of Christianity, must be traced to the agency of these native auxiliaries in the work. In the prosecution of their labours of love, our poor natives sometimes met with harsh treatment, and only two Sabbaths ago they were violently driven away from a heathen village where they visited, and brought home a number of spears which were thrown at them.

You are aware of the existence of a Sandal-wood establishment on this island. I regret to say that ever since we have been endeavoured to exert an influence over the natives for good, we have experienced from that quarter a most ungenerous, unfeeling, and unmanly opposition. I have been represented as a liar and an impostor, and the natives have been told that wherever missionaries go, that disease and death follow in their train. The rage of certain parties has, if possible, burned more fiercely against Mrs. Geddie, than against myself, perhaps, because she

has been more directly instrumental in saving some of the poor native families from degradation and ruin. I am happy to add, however, that we occasionally meet with individuals who bewail the degeneracy of their countrymen, as well as the opposition offered to the best of causes.

I read with feelings of surprise and dismay in the letter from your Secretary, that no movement had been made to fill up the vacancy in the mission. I stand amazed alone for a considerable time amidst difficulties which I believe have fallen to the lot of few missionaries, and cherished an almost confident hope that help was near at hand. Oh, it was sad, sad, and to learn that I am still to be left in this dark, dreary, and inhospitable land, without an associate in the missionary work.

We had a visit from our esteemed friend the Bishop of New Zealand, last month. He was accompanied by the Bishop of New Castle, Australia. They came in a schooner called the *Bonnet*, about 20 tons burthen, lately purchased by the Australian Board of Missions, for £1200. It is particularly designed for New Zealand, New Caledonia, and other islands. We were delighted to see Bishop Selwyn, for we believe him to be a sincere friend, and he takes a deep interest in our work. The other Bishop appeared very amiable also. The party invited to the evening and myself on this island, had many complaints to make to the Bishop of New Zealand against us, but they went to the winter quarter for sympathy. After hearing what they had to say, the good Bishop gave me the following advice: "Go on as you have been doing, and by the blessing of God you will prosper." It was some comfort to receive such an advice as this, from such a quarter and under such circumstances.

I went by ship to the Bishop's institution in New Zealand, for the instruction of natives. His name is Tapani, a lad about 15 years of age. He has been living with me about two years and can read and write his own language. He goes to learn the English language and some industrial employment, most probably printing. The Bishop offered to take him gratis, but I thought it improper to tax any other society for his support, while we are able to support him ourselves. His expenses for the first year are already paid, and he was even hired in New Zealand to care the Bishop £3 before his departure for missionary purposes, and wished him to give me credit for that sum; this, with £5 which I added on my own account, will about support the boy for one year. As I wish the boy to remain about three years in all, would the Board grant the sum of £5 a year, for the next two years to assist in his support? If the boy is spared to return to his own island, he may, by the Divine blessing, be a useful agent in the work of the Gospel.

I have prepared and printed another little book in the native language. It consists of translated portions of Scripture, with six hymns appended. It is something to have even a few fragments of the word of life in the language of these benighted Islanders. I am not aware that any portions of God's word have yet been printed in any of the dialects of the Papuan or *Herangi* Negroes. I forward a copy of the little book to you. All funds for the purchase of the paper, and the printing of the book, of paper is received. I think it was since I last wrote you, that I printed 600 sheets of words and sentences in the Lifa language, and I have a quantity more ready for the press.

The supply of clothing for the natives came to hand about six weeks ago, after lying a year in Sydney. The desire for clothing among the Christian youth is now becoming intense; but the heathen still persist in going naked. The most of the clothing sent is intended for females, and little provision is made for the wants of the men. It is highly desirable that we should clothe the latter as well as the former. A piece of cloth of any description about two yards long, tied around the waist is the garment usually worn by those who can procure it, and while it meets the wants of the climate, it, in some extent, answers the purposes of decency. In time, our natives will raise food and purchase clothing from the stores on the island, and then they will be dependent on us. Anything in the shape of clothing will always be thankfully received.—*Nova Scotia Pres. Rec.*

RIVER SETTLEMENT.

Intelligence up to the 26th January has been received from Mr. Black, and we are happy to report favourably of the health of our esteemed Missionary, and his success in his work. I continue, says he, "to be enjoying good health, and to be treated by the people with kindness and respect. The attendance at our meetings continues as usual; the house always well filled by a respectable and attentive congregation. The Sabbath School, also, is as encouraging as ever. On Sabbath last our number was ninety-seven, of whom thirty-six were in my own little class. The attendance at the prayer-meeting is very full. All the elders and two other laymen take part—mostly, however, in the Gaelic. The lecture on Wednesday afternoon, the 11th inst., was one piece of intelligence which will be gratifying to you, that we are about to have a second Church in the settlement. A few families residing about 14 miles below our present station, have resolved on the erection of a small wooden building as a house of worship, and will proceed with it immediately. There is a dense population in that quarter, most of whom should have been Protestants. I am inclined to think there would be good attendance were there a church, and they are all dependent on us. Anything in the shape of clothing will always be thankfully received. There were only larger church accommodation."

Mr. Black has sent us some particulars regarding the Aborigines. They are a branch of the great Chippewyan nation, so widely spread