

reason have we to raise our hearts in thankfulness to the God of missions for his continued goodness. "Bless the Lord, O our soul, and all that is within us bless his holy name."

"ANEITEUM, 26th May, 1856.

"MY DEAR SISTER,—

"A French vessel has just touched at this island on her way to China, and the captain kindly offers to take a letter for me. I embrace this opportunity of letting you know that we are well. We cannot be too grateful for the measure of health enjoyed by the mission families.

"I am happy to say that the cause of God continues to prosper on the island. The heathen are now reduced to a small number. They are now as nearly as we can estimate under 300. In another year we will I trust have no heathen to report. Our poor natives are growing in divine knowledge I trust, and in christian character also. There has been much sickness among the natives this year and many deaths. Not a few have given hopeful evidence on their death beds that they have not received the grace of God in vain. Within the last month two young men have died in our neighbourhood. Death had no terrors to them. They died expressing their firm reliance on Christ, and exhorted those around them to seek more earnestly the Word of God which had been so precious to them. Neither of these young men had been baptized. We hope therefore that there is much true piety among those who are not in the Church as well as among those who are in it.

"The long expected supply of type from Scotland has reached us. We have just printed the first sheet of Matthew with it. I enclose a sheet as a specimen. The natives are quite enraptured with the new type, it is so large and clear.—The books printed with the new type will I have no doubt give a great impulse to the cause of education on the island.

"You will be glad to hear that the large supply of goods for the mission shipped by the 'Sydney' for Melbourne has at last reached us. They came in excellent condition. They seemed as fresh as the day they were packed, and nothing was injured except the Communion Service from Prince Street Church, which I much regret. It was laid too

near the surface of one of the boxes, and some great pressure on the box has bent and cracked one of the cups. It may be possible to repair it. You know how I will value this precious gift to our infant Church. There is a Church meeting to-morrow, and I intend to have it brought forward and tell our Church members of the kindness of our dear friends in Nova Scotia. They will prize it all the more when they know it has been given by the Church in which their own missionary spent his early years, and in which his first public profession of religion was made.

"We feel truly grateful for the large supply of clothing from Nova Scotia.—Our poor teachers stood much in need of them. There is however one drawback to our satisfaction in receiving them, and that is the great expense on them in Melbourne. Dr Ross has written to me that they were stored there by some unprincipled man, and that his charges on them are about £27 for storage alone; but I suppose that Mr Hamilton has written to Mr Bayne on the subject.

"I feel very grateful to the kind friends, ministers of our Church and others, who have written me and whose letters have come with the supplies. I design to write to all who have been so mindful of me in my distant home. Correspondence here is a burdensome though pleasant duty. Within a few weeks I have received 43 letters, which now lie on my table to be answered. My friends must excuse me if I don't write long letters, for my reading and writing is at night, when I am often exhausted with the duties of the day.

"I am unusually busy this week, as the ordinance of the Supper will be dispensed next Sabbath. Out of a large class of candidates we admit 13 on this occasion. Two deacons have also been chosen whom we expect to ordain this week. We have concluded to delay the appointment of ruling elders for the present.

"We had a letter from Charlotte Ann in which she mentions having seen Mr Bayne in England, and, at a later date, Mr Gordon. She does not mention particulars, as she supposes that we have all information about Mr G. from other quarters. But all that we know about his movements is from her letter. We rejoice to hear that he is so far on his way.