

pears very anxious to learn to read, and often used to go into the school room, and point out the letters (which were pasted on the wall), to others equally desirous to read, but not so far advanced. On the Sabbath we had three places of public worship—the central one at our own station, in which we had service every sabbath morning, one at Anuakaraka, and the third at a village called Kuamara; at each of those two stations we had service every alternate Sabbath afternoon. Having no church, or even a large school house at our station, we were obliged to assemble in the yard on Sabbath mornings; but though all out doors afforded us ample church accommodation, yet it was not very comfortable neither in hot nor yet in wet weather, consequently the attendance upon public worship was not as good as we could have desired, nor even as it would have been had we but a building in which to assemble. To remedy this evil, we resolved upon building a church, though we evidently saw that it would be an undertaking not easily accomplished, as we had not any material at hand with which to commence, neither had we any suitable articles of barter with which to purchase the wood from the natives, and also to pay for its carriage. It is, however, a bad wind which blows nobody good, and at that very time there happened to be an old trading vessel wrecked in the harbour, having on board a large quantity of the kind of trade which we required. Upon hearing of it I immediately wrote to Mr. Copeland who was then living at Port Resolution, and requested him to purchase a quantity of knives, hatchets, &c., &c. He did so, and forwarded them the following day. The wood with the exception of some large logs had all to be carried some 4½ or 5 miles, by the natives. The chief from whom we received the wood, not only sent his men but also assisted them himself in cutting and carrying out, not only a part, but a sufficiency of wood to finish the church, which is a good substantial building, 24x48 feet. After the erection and completion of the house in March, the attendance upon public worship began to increase daily, and the average attendance in March and April was from 180 to 230—in the preceding months from 50 to 70. At Anuakaraka the average attendance was 40, and at Kuamara about 125.—We had also public worship in our own house four nights in the week, for the benefit of those who might feel disposed to attend. That meeting was very irregularly attended, some evenings there might not be more than 4 or 5 persons present, other evenings some 25 or 30.

Mr. Matheson's strength however, was overtaxed by such labours, and in March following (1859) he was prostrated by illness. The other missionaries were astonish-

ed at what he had accomplished in so short a time, but felt constrained to urge his immediate removal to Aneiteum, in consequence of the state of his health. He was then so weak that he felt it necessary to comply with their request. In reference to this removal he said, "I need not tell you that leaving our much loved station on Tanna, was to us both a very sore trial. During the six months that we were permitted to labour there, we became very much attached to the natives, and many of them apparently so to us; and we had entertained the hope of being instrumental in the hand of God, in doing something for that poor and degraded, though deeply interesting people."

At a meeting of the missionaries held on Aneiteum on his arrival there, the following resolution was adopted,—

"That they recognize with thankfulness the progress of the mission at Mr. Matheson's station—a commodious place of worship has been erected, and extensive improvements have been effected on the mission premises, the attendance upon the public worship is highly encouraging and a desire for education is beginning to appear; that while they see the great need of Mr. and Mrs. Matheson's presence to carry forward the work, yet they are fully of opinion that the state of Mr. Matheson's health for the last month renders a visit to Aneiteum immediately indispensably necessary, that they sympathize deeply with him and also with Mrs. Matheson on account of his health, and their prayer on his behalf is, that the Lord may abundantly sanctify to him this trying dispensation of his Providence, and speedily if it be his holy will, restore him to his wonted health and strength."

Dr. McGillivray, of the surveying service, then on the island, gave but slight hopes of Mr. Matheson's ultimate recovery. But after a time his health began to revive, and he wished to return to his labours on Tanna. But at a meeting of the missionaries held on the 30th August, the following resolution was adopted,—“An application was made by Mr. Matheson, that he might return to his station on Tanna, but after mature deliberation, and after consulting with the sur-