

Scripture Epitome, containing the history of Jacob and Joseph.

The half yearly communion on this side of the island was observed on the 12th of April. Mr. Geddie's is close at hand.

A portion of the cotton supplies came to hand in March, and the natives are about to commence digging. We fear that the second shipment of seed will be too late for this year's crop. Every native will plant the cotton on his own plot of ground—on his own paternal soil. In this way much more cotton is likely to be raised than by all the natives of a land combining and making a common plantation. He that plants largely will reap more than his less diligent neighbour, and this will act as a powerful stimulus. The tools (axes and picks) will be equally divided among several lands. I do hope the scheme will succeed to the utmost wishes of its devisers, to the advantage of its shareholders, and to the temporal and spiritual well-being of the Aneiteumese."

In another letter Mr. Copeland gives an account of the *John Knox* for the summer of 1862, and relates an accident which occurred to her. This will afford our readers some idea of the work to be done by the *Dayspring* and the need there exists for her services;—

"The *John Knox* has made her first trip to the adjoining islands. She visited Port Resolution, Black Beach, Niua, and Erromanga. At the first mentioned of these places we found the natives in a state of hostility towards each other. Miaki, the chief, was anxious that we should remove him and some others to Niua, as he was afraid some one would take his life. The prospects of that station do not become brighter by the lapse of time. At the west side of the island we were well received. They wish to have Aneiteum teachers again among them. We are about to send them two. I was well pleased with what I saw on Erromanga. Joe and Mana, the two baptized natives, have done nobly in keeping the Christian party together. They have worship on Sabbath, and school in the mornings. The attendance on worship on Sabbath is over twenty. They are glad to see us. They showed their good will by cooking an oven of food for us, and by making a present of yams and bananas for the vessel on our way home. They are anxious to have teachers once more settled on their island, only they say they (the teachers) must live in the mean time where the body of the Christian natives are, in case of danger. We intend, therefore, sending them teachers by the first opportunity, most probably by the *John Williams*. One of those who will go is a native on Mr. Geddie's side

of the island, who lived with the late Mr. and Mrs. Gordon for some time, and knows the language.

During the year six visits have been made to the adjoining islands, the first on the 8th of May, and the last on November 10.—These six trips occupied on an average seven days. She visited Erromanga once, Black Beach twice, Niua, Fotuna, and Port Resolution, thrice. As there were no missionaries on any of these islands this year, she has carried less in the shape of cargo than formerly. We have had a great many passengers to and from this island,—Fotunese, Tannese, and Erromangans. Two teachers were taken in her to their spheres of labour, one to Niua, and one to Fotuna,—the former a Rarotongan, the latter a Samoan. Two teachers were also removed from their stations and brought in her to this island, one a native of this island, and one the Samoan just mentioned.

Her expenses here for the year just closed amount to £37. This, added to the order sent out from home, will raise her maintenance to something over £100, but some time will elapse before that, in ordinary circumstances, she will cost so much. Her smallness and incessant motion prevent every thing about her, as ropes, sails, &c., from lasting long. The £37 expended on her maintenance here covers from August 1861 till December 1862, nearly a year and a half. As was the case last season, so in this; we have had to depend on rice and biscuit for feeding those on board, owing to the scarcity of native food on this and on all the other islands.

I have something new to report about her this year. She has been ashore. This unlooked for event took place in the end of May, when she was lying at anchor at Mr. Geddie's station. Both anchors were down. The wind was from the N.W. and W., and blowing right into the harbour. There were sea and wind, but nothing to cause alarm. She was lying not far from the shore, somewhat sheltered by the reef. Another small schooner was lying a little further out. During the afternoon we observed the two vessels pitching considerably, especially the one lying outside, but we never thought there was any danger. About nine p. m., just when we were about to go to bed, we heard a shouting on the beach. On running down to the spot we found the *John Knox* aground a few yards from the shore on the top of a rock. A number of natives were standing under her lee shouting, and trying to get her afloat. As she had left both her anchors, we knew not where, the first thing was to get one. At one of the sandal-wood establishments we got an anchor, and had it carried out some distance, but when we began to haul in on the chain, we found that it was too light to hold. There was no re-