

We learn that there is no probability of the Rev. Mr. Inglis being present at our meeting of Synod, owing to the fact that his presence will be required in London for some months yet, to oversee the publication of the New Testament in Ane'tumese by the Bible Society. He will give no positive promise of visiting us until his great work is concluded.

REV. MR. GEDDIE'S ANNUAL REPORT.

ANEITEUM, October 8th, 1865.

[Sabbath duties—Church members—Schools—Translation of Scriptures—State of the rising generation—Missionary meetings and contributions of arrow-root, native dresses, &c.—Visit to Tana with Mr. Johnston—Preparation by means of native teachers on other islands—The "John Knox"—Need for more Missionaries—Thanks for donations.]

REV. AND DEAR SIR:—

At the close of another year's residence on this island, I take my pen to address you. More than twelve years have now elapsed since we landed on Aneiteum. During this long period we have enjoyed much of God's goodness, for which I trust we are grateful to him.

Our labours do not differ from those of former years. The duties of the Sabbath here are much the same as at home. We meet twice for public worship, and there are Sabbath schools in the afternoon at every village on the island. As the natives are early risers, the usual hour for divine service is half past eight o'clock A. M., so that the more public duties of the day are over before the heat is oppressive. About five hundred persons attend worship at each of the two principal stations on the island, while prayer meetings are conducted by the teachers at the more distant out stations. As regards the external observance of the Sabbath we have little cause for complaint. The natives neither work, nor travel except to church, nor even cook their food. It is literally a day of rest here.

The number of church members in my district, including some of the teachers in the neighbouring islands, is one hundred and seventy-nine. Over these we endeavour to exercise a careful oversight. In this duty I am greatly assisted by seven elders recently ordained. Each one has a certain number of church members assigned to his charge, whom he visits, and with whom he holds meetings for conversation, exhortation and prayer. At our meetings of Session, each elder gives a report of the state of religion in his district. The deacons attend to all temporal concerns which in our circumstances are numerous.

The cause of education continues slowly, but surely to advance. There are between fifty and sixty schools in the island, attended by old and young, with few exceptions. To accommodate the natives the schools meet at sunrise, before the labours of the day commence. Reading only is taught at our morning schools. At each of the mission stations there is an advanced school, where in addition to reading, lessons are given in writing, arithmetic, geography, &c. These schools are select, and many of those who attend them are likely to become teachers. The one in my district is under Mrs. Geddie's superintendence, and she is assisted by some of the native teachers and their wives. The number of scholars is about ninety at present.

Since the translation of the New Testament was completed, we have been busy with the Old Testament. The book of Genesis was translated by Mr. Inglis and has been printed since his departure. I have recently finished the book of Exodus which is now in the press. Much of my time is now devoted to translating the remaining books of Moses and the Psalms.

You will not be surprised to hear that we have many practical evils to contend with among a people who have so recently emerged from a state of the deepest moral degradation. The emancipation of any people from the debasing influences of heathenism is not the work of a few years, but of generations. These evils however are not more numerous or formidable than we might reasonably expect. The case of the rising generation at present causes us some solicitude. The parents who have themselves grown up without discipline or restraint, are