

food on property been stolen from them. We ought I think to recognize the hand of God in such encouragements to extend the gospel among the heathen, and unite in thankfulness to him. It has been said that natives are influenced only by a desire for property in asking for teachers, but I beg to record my dissent against so uncharitable a sentiment. During the 14 years that I have spent in the work I have received many applications for teachers, and these applications came in some such form as the following, 'Give us men to teach us, it is not your property we want, our desire is to know the Word of God.' If it is property the heathen want they take a very unlikely way of getting it in asking teachers to come and live among them. When I tell you that our Aneiteum teachers on heathen islands only receive clothing and barter to the value of about 30s sterling a year, you will see that they are the men least likely to be desired from motives of avarice. It would be wrong to say that the heathen desire the gospel from enlightened and christian motives. But they know that they are immortal creatures and have an indefinite idea that christianity is something good, and needed by them. The motives however which influence people at home or abroad to desire the gospel is not to be our rule of actions, but the Redeemer's commission only, who says, "Go ye unto all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

VOYAGE OF JOHN WILLIAMS.

I send by this mail an account of my voyage in the "John Williams" in company with Mr Murray of the London Missionary Society. It was the most extensive voyage that has yet been made by the missionary ship in Western Polynesia. You will find a fuller and deeply interesting account of it by Mr Murray, which will appear in the "Missionary Chronicle." This voyage is his last work in connection with the London Missionary Society, and forms a suitable termination to his honored missionary career. It is a matter of deep regret to all the missionaries on these islands that Mrs Murray's failing health compels their removal from the islands. But all events are under God's control, and he no doubt has important designs in view, in the removal of so valuable a man. Men of Mr Murray's spirit are needed at home as well as abroad. He will awaken a deep interest in the cause wherever he goes. I am sure you will read with pleasure the account of our deeply interesting voyage. Before I undertook this voyage I had a very imperfect idea of the magnitude, the loveliness and the populousness of the group on which we labor. We have commenced our operations at the least inviting end of the group, and among the most degraded natives. If the work has to some extent succeeded here, we may expect by God's blessing greater and more important results as we extend northward. The formation of a church on Vate must cheer the heart of every friend of the cause. May God send to this infant church a pastor after his own heart to break the bread of life to them. They need a man animated by Paul's spirit who said to the Thessalonian converts, "we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children." No time should be lost in sending men of piety, wisdom, and prudence, to occupy the important island of Vate. Its central position, and the superiority of the natives gives it an importance not possessed by other islands. Were this island brought under the influence of the gospel a valuable native agency might be raised up on it to almost any extent. The progress of the work on other islands will be much influenced by the state of the mission on Vate.

EFFORTS OF OTHER CHURCHES.

I hope that you will approve of our appeal for another missionary vessel. The "John Knox" was well suited for the few islands to which our attention has hitherto been confined, but she is altogether unsuitable for the extensive voyages that we must now undertake. With the means of communication at our disposal a great and glorious work might be done on these islands, and without this the mission work will but slowly and feebly advance. The possession of a vessel would almost ensure the evangelization of this group within a reasonable time. If missionaries cannot be procured in sufficient numbers to occupy the island, a great work may be done by native teachers, and the churches of Eastern Polynesia will always be ready to aid us in this way. But our prospects as regards missionaries are by no means discouraging. If we can open up the islands men will not be found wanting to occupy them. There is a strong probability that the Presbyterians of New Zealand and the Australian Colonies will aid us in evangelizing this group.