

With regard to Mr Geddie, it is not necessary that any lengthened statement should be given of his labors and their results, inasmuch as these have been regularly published in the *Register* and circulated throughout the church, and have not been of such a nature as to call for much action from your Board.

The only official communications received since last meeting of Synod are under dates, Dec. 25, 1852, and Oct. 1, 1853. Private letters have, however, been received of later and more frequent dates. In all these, the tone in which your highly esteemed missionary writes, is that of lively gratitude for the divine protection and blessing upon his person and family, and for the wonders wrought under his ministry; confident expectation of the speedy and final triumph of Christianity throughout the island; and resolute determination "to spend and be spent" in the work of evangelizing the New Hebrides group. In these and kindred emotions, it is not too much to assert, that all the friends of missions who have perused the ample testimony to Mr Geddie's zeal, efficiency and success, which the history of his mission has afforded, will readily and largely participate.

The progress which has been made during the past year has been very decided, and parties who have every claim to be accounted competent and disinterested witnesses, have presented a picture of the state and prospects of the mission, much more bright and cheering, than your missionary has yet done. It will thus appear that by giving full weight to all his statements, there is no danger of over-estimating the advantages which have been acquired. The accounts which have come to hand do not cover a period of more than five years and four months, but during that time, heathenism has been razed to its foundations in Aneiteum. There is not now a single district in that island, so lately the undisturbed seat of Satan, that has not cast its idols to the moles and bats, that is not now clamorous for christian teachers. Schools of a most efficient character, are in successful operation. From the boarding school, two well qualified agents have been selected and have already gone forth as missionaries to a neighboring island. A large church, containing 500 persons, had been built

at the principal station, and within a year after its erection, it was found necessary to enlarge its accommodation.

In May, 1852, thirteen persons were baptized, and these, with the mission family, were constituted into an organized body for the regular dispensation of public ordinances. Within a few months from this date, eleven converts were added to this, the first christian church ever known to be established among the Oceanic Negro or Papuan race. It is matter of regret, that the progress thus auspiciously begun, cannot be traced to any later date. Mr Geddie in his last letter, refers to a document which he was preparing, with a view to transmission by the first opportunity, and containing all general information about the mission. This important packet has not come to hand, but will be made public as soon as it arrives.

With regard to the domestic comfort of the mission family, it is highly gratifying to observe the very marked improvement that has taken place. An excellent and commodious stone house has been erected and is now inhabited. All the mission goods, which have at different times been sent from Nova Scotia, would appear to have reached their destination in safety, and afforded seasonable and abundant supply of clothing, school materials and other necessaries. The society of another mission family (Rev J. Inglis') though not immediately accessible, can now, without much difficulty, be obtained; and even the natives around the mission station, are now, to a considerable extent, moulded into the habits of civilized life.

There is perhaps, no feature in the year's correspondence more gratifying in itself, as indicating the permanent prosperity of the mission, than the perfect cordiality of sentiment, feeling and operation which subsists between your missionary and Mr Inglis, the highly esteemed agent of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland. Mr Geddie uniformly makes honorable mention of the zeal, ability, faithfulness and success of the labors of Mr Inglis. In his letters to your Clerk, as well as the Secretary of the Committee under whose inspection he is placed, Mr Inglis expresses a strong conviction of the abundant, well directed, and prosperous la-