

here would be stirred up to follow you, and great good might ensue. Moreover this would be a special means of reviving religion in all your congregations. Let your people be set to work more for Christ, and to cultivate more self denial for the sake of the heathen, and their own souls will prosper and be in health. Mere religious excitement, without some practical object in view, soon passes away. It is like a land flood, which soon dries up. But when conjoined with some active scheme of well directed benevolence, it is like a living spring, or a flowing stream, that goes on increasing till it reach the ocean. This would be a special means of preserving the peace and unity of your Church. This is no question of doubtful disputation. It is a question on which the mind of the Church is entirely at one. It is a subject admirably adapted to unite the sympathies of the Church. Where Christians take a full, calm, and deliberate view of the extent and character of Satan's kingdom, when they look at the darkness and degradation, the abominations and cruelties of heathenism; and the obligations under which they are laid to extend the light and liberty, the untold and unnumbered blessings of Christ's gospel, subordinate matters, and matters of detail sink into their properly insignificant proportions, and a common sympathy is felt through the entire Church. "Whereto," says the apostle, "we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing." The surest way to ascertain the doubtful is to practise the well known and the certain. To secure peace at home, let aggressive operations on a large scale be carried on in Satan's kingdom abroad. In all well arranged campaigns, there must be a basis of operations, and the advanced posts must all be in communication with the main body. Missions should be conducted on the same principle. No advances ought to be made into the domains of heathenism, that cannot be vigorously sustained. Napoleon's principle was to conquer completely, to leave no enemy behind him. It is much better to evangelize one island thoroughly than two or three partially. We have seen, even on Aneiteum, what mischief a few straggling heathen are capable of doing. And we see on Tanna and Erromanga the painful hazards, and the fearful deaths to which isolated Missionaries are exposed. Had we eighteen or twenty Missionaries, and I hope we may soon have such a number. I would be for locating them somewhat as follows: continue two on Aneiteum; place two on Fotuna and Anwa, eight or ten on Tanna, and the rest on Erromanga; Aneiteum being still the basis of operations. Let each Missionary or each station be supplied with a good boat, and let the John Knox be sailing continually among them. In this way constant communication could be kept up among the Missionaries, mutual counsel could be taken, mutual help could be rendered, heathenism would be assailed at every point, and a manageable amount of labour would be in the hands of each Missionary. Dr. Turner, in his "Nineteen years in Polynesia," advocates this same principle of conducting Missions, as that best adapted for Tanna. I would be for extending our efforts no farther till these five islands were in some good measure evangelized, and then a broad basis of operations would be laid for acting on the whole group. It would not in all likelihood be necessary to continue that number permanently on those islands. When fully evangelized, the number may be reduced a third or a half, and operations undertaken in the regions beyond. The experience and knowledge of such men would be invaluable in new fields. Any new Mission should, if possible, be headed by men of some experience, to prevent errors and mistakes, and guide the zeal and energy of young Missionaries. Whatever we do, we should do thoroughly and well, however limited our operations. It was within the narrow entrenchments of Torres Vedras that the Duke of Wellington secured his own safety, when Napoleon threatened to drive the British lion into the sea; and he there so disciplined and trained his own troops and his Portuguese allies, so taught them patiently to bide their time, and watch and improve their advantages, that when the fitting moment came, he sallied forth upon the enemy with such energy, and gained victory after victory with such rapidity, that he never came to a pause till he had driven the French beyond the Pyrenees. Let not the children of this world be always wiser in their generation than the children of light. A large Mission field is often a great mistake. In a limited field, such as I propose, well occupied, there is less danger, less expense, while the work can be carried on with more efficiency.