

know not what is to become of these islands if missionaries cannot be induced to come and labor on them. Perhaps God may permit an enemy to enter and thus rebuke the indifference of those interested in their evangelization. These islands are by no means safe while there is a colony of French priests on New Caledonia.

We anticipate with delight the return of our dear girl Charlotte Ann. She has now been absent from us nearly eight years. She leaves the Mission school with high testimonials, and has given much satisfaction to her guardians and teachers. We must soon think of parting with our other children. It is quite probable that Elizabeth and John will go home when the "John Williams" returns. I think we will send them to Nova Scotia. These separations, my dear brother, are very trying, but the welfare of our dear children seems to require them.

My chief object in writing at present is to ask a favour of you. I see that the *Christian Instructor* and *Missionary Register* are now printed in Halifax and presume that you have some concern with them. Would you put me down as a subscriber for two copies—one to be sent by mail and the other to be bound up at the end of every year and sent in any boxes designed for this Mission. One No. only,* of May 1856, has reached this island. I must refer you to the Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board for my subscription, &c.

There is another subject which I wish to mention to you. We have in view to build a large stone Church two or three years hence. Our present Church is a fine building, but the heat and humidity of the climate and the insects act so destructively on the wood that its downfall is merely a question of time. Mr Inglis also foresees the destruction of his Church. We have therefore resolved, as we can now command any amount of native labour, to commence new buildings. It will take one or two years to collect materials, as the stone must be all carried by the natives from a distance. But we cannot build without tools. I do not know where to apply for help in this way unless I apply to you. Perhaps you could find some member of your congregation interested enough in the object to

collect some tools for us, either new or second hand. What we want is masons' tools, consisting of stone hammers, trowels and lines, plaisterer's tools, and carpenter's tools of any kind. They might be put up in a box and sent to the Mission House, London, with instructions to be forwarded to Sydney *without delay*, or it would be still better if they could be sent direct to Sydney or Melbourne, but they should not be sent to the latter place unless under the charge of some trustworthy person who would inform the Agent of their arrival. The intercourse between Melbourne and Sydney is almost daily. I must now conclude. Mrs Geddie unites in kind remembrance and christian love to Mrs McGregor and yourself.

Ever yours, &c.,
JOHN GEDDIE.

LETTER FROM MRS. GEDDIE TO
MRS. WADELLE, DATED OCT.
10TH, 1856.

According to the old saying, "self-praise is no recommendation." Yet I cannot help thinking that my conduct (as our natives say) is very good to write you so often when you so seldom write me. But I must give you the benefit of a doubt, for perhaps there was a letter from you among our letters and papers which were lost a few weeks ago at the Isle of Pines. The vessel in which they were was bound for China, but had to call at the Isle of Pines and at this island to take in her cargo (of sandal wood).—In entering the harbor of the former place she was wrecked. We are very much disappointed I can assure you, for we have not heard from home for a long time. I expect that there were a great many letters, papers and magazines, and Dr Ross writes that they were in a box, and he only puts them up in a box when there are a great many. Mr and Mrs Inglis are also disappointed, but not so much as we are, for their friends write to them much more frequently than ours do to us. Our dear children write us monthly, and there would have been a great many letters from them, as we had not had any for a long time. When we last heard from them they were well and happy at school. I mentioned in my former letter that we had written to Charlotte to come out if she still wishes to come and assist in our work, but as our letters have been lost we do not know

* The *Christian Instructor* is regularly mailed to Mr Geddie.