

day's search one was discovered and the other surrendered himself. They confessed their guilt; but pleaded the darkness of their hearts as an excuse. As a punishment they were tied hands and feet for a time, their long hair cut off, their houses pulled down and burnt, and a fine of mats, &c., imposed—their plantations were left untouched. The poor men felt thankful to the chiefs for their leniency towards them. All the heathen in the place were assembled on the occasion, and the chiefs had a good opportunity of talking with them on the subject of christianity and urged them to give up heathenism, which they promised to do. They consented to receive a teacher and declared their intention of henceforth attending on the means of grace. I have since learnt from Mr Inglis, in whose district the affair took place, that they attend Church on the Sabbath day, though they are a long way from it. Thus has this very sad event led to the breaking up of the last strong hold of heathenism on Aneiteum.

We look with much anxiety for the return of the "John Williams." We had information of her arrival in Sydney in January last. It is probable that she will reach Aneiteum in about a month hence. It cheers us to know that Mr Gordon is in her, but how sad to think that he comes alone. I trust that others may be found willing to forsake the endearments of home and come far hence to preach among these Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. We still look to Tana as Mr Gordon's field of labour. The teachers sent to that island have done more in the way of opening it up for missionaries, than we at first ventured to expect. If they have not diffused much knowledge, they have at least been instrumental in removing prejudices, in shaking the confidence of the natives in their superstitions, and in making many desire the word of God. The cry of the man of Macedonia comes often from Tana to this island. Mr Inglis and I intend to accompany Mr Gordon to his destination. We have a good house in readiness for him, and we will take a number of our best native mechanics to put it up. I trust that other missionaries may come to his aid. Is there no young man willing to come and share with him the trials and the joys of the Tana mission.

There is at present on this island two parties of Tanese the one from the north

and the other from the south end of the island. The former party was left by a sandel wood vessel, and they have been waiting for some months the arrival of the "John Williams" hoping to get home in her, and to take teachers with them. I am sorry to say that a teacher named *Tho* whom we intended to send with them was drowned yesterday. He was one of my best teachers on this island, and was living at the station awaiting the arrival of the "J. W." to go in her to his destination. This melancholy event has thrown a gloom over our little community as he was a man respected by all. I know not where to look for a substitute for him. The other party of Tanese came in a canoe about six weeks ago. The object of their visit is to get teachers. They brought with them a pig to buy a teacher. We have promised to take a teacher to them in the "John Williams."

I must now draw my letter to a close. Remember these islands and do what you can for their evangelization. The harvest is great here but how few the labourers. Let me solicit for this mission and all engaged in it an interest in your prayers.

I remain, dear brethren,  
very sincerely yours, &c.,  
JOHN GEDDIE.

Rev James Bayne, }  
Sec. B. F. M. P.C.N.S. }

#### LATER INTELLIGENCE FROM MR. GORDON.

A private letter from Mr Gordon has been received by the Rev James Bayne. It is written from Malua, Upolu, Samoa, and is dated 20th May, 1857. We give the principal contents:—

The "John Williams" had arrived thither from the Hervey Islands April 27th. The month of May at Samoa, as in Britain, is the special season for missionary meetings, and consequently Mr Gordon had an interesting and profitable time with the excellent brethren of the mission of this group, occupied by the London Missionary Society. Miss Charlotte Anne Geddie and Mrs Gordon and her husband were enjoying the company of Rev Mr Turner and family. Mr T. had in his possession a vocabulary of the Tanese language, prepared by himself, and Mr Nesbit and Mr Gordon expected to be engaged for a few days analysing and copying it. The "John Wil-