

us a welcome reception on shore. Having finished at Apes we went on to *Ambrim*. This is a lovely island. There is a volcano on it in constant action. The natives on it are very timid, and we found it difficult to have intercourse with them. We succeeded however in getting two natives to accompany us, who will return to their own island next year, accompanied by teachers, we hope. The last island of the group at which we called was *Espirito Santo*. This is the largest and most northerly island of the group. It appeared to be populous also. We settled two Rarotongan teachers at this place. The natives appear to be a fine race and are less savage than some of their neighbours. Leaving the New Hebrides we sailed for the Loyalty Islands, and visited Mare, Lifu, and Wea, where the work seems to prosper. During our voyage we sighted about 37 islands, exclusive of small ones. A great field is opening up in these islands for Missionary enterprise.

You will see by one of the accompanying resolutions that we want a larger vessel. I think it will not be difficult from various quarters to raise the money for her purchase, her maintenance is a more serious matter. The annual expenses of such a vessel as we propose, with a crew of native seamen, will be about £600 sterling. Now our Loyalty Island brethren engage to raise half that sum yearly for half of her time. The remainder divided between the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland and ours will be £150 each. In addition to all this we have the certain prospect of help from New Zealand and Australia, to supplement any deficiency on the part of those pledged for her support. I trust that the object will meet with the approbation of our Church at large, and that the children in particular will take an interest in it. I will write fully on this subject soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray late of the Samoan Mission are on this island at present. They are waiting for a vessel bound to Sydney. The declining health of Mrs. Murray has compelled them to leave. Mr. Murray is one of the most successful and honored Missionaries on the Pacific Isles, and the work sustains a great loss in his removal from it. I have seldom met with a man for whom I have a greater esteem. Mrs. Murray is a baptist, and a very amiable woman, and he also is one in principle and may

probably join that body when he leaves the Mission field. It was with Mr. Murray that we commenced our Missionary life on the island of Tutuila and it seems somewhat singular that he should close his with us on the island of Aneiteum.

The *John Knor*, returned from Tana last week. Some natives came over in her to the opening of the Church who will go home with good impressions I hope. Mr. Matheson had been very ill but was recruiting a little. Mrs. M. has also been very delicate for several months. To add to their troubles they are living at a place so inaccessible that little or no help can be given to them.

Mrs. Geddie and our two children are well. Mrs. Johnston lives with us and makes herself as useful as she can in the work. Her health has not been good since she came from Tana. She accompanied me in the *John Williams* and was much benefitted by her voyage. Mrs. Geddie unites with me in kind remembrance to Mrs. McGregor and all our Halifax friends.

I trust that you and other friends of the Mission may not be faint hearted on account of the troubles which have befallen us. God intends them for good and this will be their issue. He moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform. Lift up your hands and hearts in our behalf, and sooner or later all these dark isles will be given to Christ as his inheritance.

I remain, ever yours, &c.,
J. GEDDIE.

Rev. P. G. MCGREGOR.

P.S.—We had a Meeting of our Mission last week, at which several important resolutions were passed. I hoped to have been able to inclose them in your letter but the vessel sails so soon that I cannot translate them. I only extract a part of one relating to a Missionary vessel as I alluded to it in my letter.—*Resolved*, That we concur in the views expressed by the Loyalty Island brethren as regards the desirableness of having such a vessel as that proposed (about 60 or 70 tons.) *Resolved further*, That an appeal be made to the children of the two Churches and to the children of the various Presbyterian congregations in the colonies of Australia and New Zealand, to aid in raising the funds necessary for her purchase and support, and that Messrs. Geddie and Copeland be appointed to address them on the subject.