

Our Church was reopened for the worship of God in November. It is now a substantial building and looks well. Some defects in the former building have been rectified, and the whole workmanship is highly creditable to the natives. We have not glass windows as formerly, but neat lattice work which looks very well. The meeting of natives at the opening of the church was as large as I have seen on the island, notwithstanding the reduced number of the population. There could not have been less than 1200 persons present. The presence of the Rev Messrs. Murray and Copeland added to the interest and value of our meetings on the occasion. The Church was opened on Friday; the ordinance of the Lord's Supper was dispensed on Sabbath; and our annual missionary meeting was held on Monday. The natives seemed to manifest a deep interest in all the objects which had brought them together, and I trust that we separated with resolutions to live less to ourselves and more to Christ who loved us and gave himself for us. The absence of many familiar faces was deeply felt, and seemed to have a solemnizing influence on many persons.

MISSIONARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

Our missionary contributions are small this year. This arises from the peculiar circumstances of the island. The fearful hurricane of March last destroyed the most of the arrowroot. In most places the quantity dug up did not exceed the seed planted. The amount of the contributions this year at both stations is as nearly as I can ascertain as follows: Money £6 10s. sterling, cocoa-nut oil, 60 gallons and arrow root — lbs. This is quite as much as we expected in present circumstances. At one time indeed we doubted the propriety of having any collection this year, and would not have urged it, but the natives proposed it themselves. They have done what they could, and we trust that their humble tribute to the cause will be accepted by God, who requires of a man according to what he has, and not according to what he has not.

VOYAGES OF JOHN KNOX—WORK ON TANA.

The "John Knox" returned from her last voyage for the present season. The teachers on Futuna and Niua were well and on the latter island especially encouraged in their labours. The accounts from Tana are also favorable. Mr Paton and Mrs Matheson write encouragingly about the work. The excitement caused by the measles has in a great measure passed off. The most important information is from the new station opened on the west side of Tana last year. The natives were awed for a time by the sickness and by statements of sandal wood traders, and did not attend on the instructions of the teachers. They were not angry with the teachers, who they saw suffered as well as themselves, but they did not encourage their labors. Confidence has again been restored and a reaction in favor of christianity has taken place. At the station where the teachers live the natives generally abstain from work on the Sabbath, and most of them meet for the worship of God. The teacher Nasivi has been encouraged to itinerate to other places, and the natives have told him if he could only send them word on the Saturday they would not work on the Sabbath, but remain at home to receive him. The principal object of the "John Knox's" visit to the west side of Tana was to remove this valuable teacher. He has been recalled to succeed his uncle who was one of the high chiefs of the island. We were not aware of the interesting state of the mission when the vessel went for him as our previous information had not been encouraging. When the people were told that the teacher would leave them there was a general lamentation, and many tears were shed. They were unwilling to part with their teacher, and the teacher and his wife were as unwilling to leave them. A promise was made to the natives that teachers should be sent to them after the hurricane months and this satisfied them. The chief was told to take care of the teacher's plantations for the benefit of those who might succeed him. He said that he would take care of them for Nasivi himself, and that when his yams were ripe they should be sent home in the "John Knox," and as for the teachers who should be sent they would make ample provision for them. Nasivi is of opinion that a missionary might settle there at any time with prospects of safety and usefulness. The people were much disappointed when they heard of Mr Johnston's death as they expected him to live among them. During all the time that our teachers have resided at this place they have not received any unkind treatment from the natives among whom they lived, and in no instance has