

they will commence operations immediately; but the chief part of the work is reserved for the autumn months.

The object of the Board, it will be seen, in this effort is, in the first place, to provide an efficient Library and Apparatus; and, in the second place, to provide such a fund as, with the amount already in possession, will enable the Synod, from its annual interest, to place the Institution beyond the risk of failure, leaving the annual contributions and occasional donations to increase its usefulness. What sum may be devoted to each of these objects particularly, will be for the Synod to determine; but we should suppose, not less than £100 annually, for the next

five years, or £500 in all, should be appropriated to the Library, and probably not less for Apparatus. As to the investments of funds, we are aware that some have conscientious objections to employing money in that way. We, of course, allow to such the liberty of acting on their own convictions. But we must claim the same right for others. Many as conscientiously approve highly of employing money in that way, and we must claim for them equal liberty to act upon their conscientious convictions. And in providing Library and Apparatus, the former have an opportunity of showing the sincerity of their desire to promote the permanent efficiency of the institution.—*Cont.*

Foreign Missions.

LETTER FROM MRS. GEDDIE.

August 12th, 1854.

Your letters reached me by the *John Williams*, which remained with us three days on her way to Sydney, whither she has gone to be repaired, having suffered some injury from getting on a reef at Borabora, near Tahiti. It is now three weeks since she left us, and we will look for her in three weeks from this time, when she will visit all the islands in this group, and leave teachers. I was delighted to receive so many letters from you all, and still more delighted to hear that you were all well.

I am happy to inform you that we are all well. Elizabeth has been subject to fever and ague since the month of March; but we hope she will get quite over it when we get into our new house.* The house in which we are living is getting very bad. We have no floors in it, and of course it must be unhealthy, as in the rainy season the mats are quite damp. Our new house is built of stone, as wooden houses do not last any time in this climate: (that is, houses built of native wood.) Mr Geddie has built the house himself, and gets great credit from persons who are judges of stone-work. Besides building the house he has translated the Gospel of Mark, and attended to his other duties. He has

sent it to Sydney to be printed, and we shall have it by the return of the *John Williams*. Our people will be delighted to get it, as many of them have read over and over again the books we have.

We have still great encouragement in our work. Within these last two weeks the last heathen district on the island have given up their idols and requested a teacher. They have already a meeting house nearly finished, and they will have a teacher settled among them as soon as practicable. These people have hitherto been very stiff; but now that they have put themselves in the way of instruction, I trust many of them may find the pearl of great price. If the success of our mission depended on us poor feeble, sinful creatures, we might well fear for its safety; but we believe and trust that He whose work it is, and who has graciously smiled on our feeble efforts, will continue to bless and prosper his own work. I cannot refrain from mentioning an expression made by Simeona, a Samoan, who lived several years on this island before us, and who returned to Samoa before any change had taken place, and has labored among this people. He says: "Very great has been the love of God to this people. I lived among them for several years, and talked to them; but they were just like stones; but now great has been the love

*In a P. S. Mrs Geddie says that they are quite better.