

THE MISSIONARY REGISTER,

OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia.

LORD, bless and pity us, shine on us with thy face,
That th' earth thy way, and nations all may know thy saving grace.—*Ps. lxxvii. 1, 2.*

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Foreign Missions.

LETTER FROM REV. JOHN GEDDIE TO REV. P. G. MCGREGOR.

ANFITEUM, April 23rd, 1857.

MY DEAR BROTHER,—

As a vessel is about to leave this island for Sydney I avail myself of the opportunity of sending a few lines to you. I feel thankful to inform you that the Mission families are all well. The measure of health we now enjoy should fill our hearts with gratitude to God. May our lives be more than ever devoted to His service from whom all our mercies flow.

We long to hear from home and friends. Our letters last year were lost in a ship which was wrecked on her way from Sydney to this island. The disappointment, as you may suppose, was great to us; but we must acquiesce in the dispensations of Providence. In the absence of letters from home there are no persons on this island with whom the Mission families can associate. Our entire foreign population consists of two American and one English sailor, who reside on the island are married to native women, and a few sandel wood men.—These men appear to value our presence on account of the protection which christianity gives to their persons and property, but for other reasons we are obnoxious to most of them. I am glad to say that licentiousness is now entirely

suppressed on this island, and our chiefs are determined to exert their influence to prevent it.

You will be glad to learn from my letters to the Board of Foreign Missions that God seems to prosper his own work on this island. The gospel has indeed wrought a great change among the poor Aneiteumese. It would be difficult for you to form any just conception of the condition in which the gospel found these islanders. To the common crimes and abominations of heathenism they added infanticide, the strangulation of widows, human sacrifices to propitiate their nat-masses when they wished plentiful crops, and cannibalism in its worst forms. Not only were enemies taken in war eaten, but it was customary to kill human beings for food, especially women. Our poor natives are ashamed of these things now, and do not like to talk about their former customs. But I believe that many who have been guilty of all these crimes are now living monuments of divine grace, and they admire and praise that divine power and grace which has rescued them from the awful abyss of heathenism. The crown of our blessed Redeemer will, I doubt not, be adorned with gems gathered from among the degraded Aneiteumese.

We look anxiously for the return of the "John Williams." We rejoice to know that Mr Gordon is in her, but how sad to think that he comes alone. I