

always been given to the preaching of the gospel in this mission; and other instrumentalities, however valuable, have occupied a subordinate place. The good news of salvation through a crucified Saviour admits of no substitute. Its efficacy has been tested for more than 1800 years, and men of every colour, kindred and tongue, have found it to be the power of God unto the salvation of their souls. It was the preaching of the gospel that laid heathenism in ruins on this island, and we must still depend on the gospel for the religious and moral elevation of the natives. I am greatly assisted in this department of the work by some of the elders, who do the duty of local preachers. Their attainments are of course limited; but they are earnest men, and like most natives have a great facility for communicating the knowledge they possess. They are cautious, and seldom venture to expound scripture, which their missionaries have not previously explained to them; and they often repeat the substance of our discourses in a form that is intelligible, attractive and edifying to their countrymen. The elders from whom I derive most aid are Nareva, Lathella, Kaka, Nasaw-an-laig and Pita: all of whom so far as I know, are God fearing and exemplary men.

#### EDUCATION.

The cause of education advances slowly in the right direction. It has been our aim to teach every native capable of instruction, to read the word of God in his own tongue. This object has been gained to some extent, though there are still some among the old and the young who are unable to read. The natives of this island have peculiar advantages, as the teachers are numerous, and few of the people are at an inconvenient distance from some school. The time is not distant when the number of our schools will be diminished, and confined chiefly to the children. The schools at Mr. Inglis' station and my own for training native teachers are conducted as usual. The number of scholars on my list at this time is between twenty and thirty, most of whom expect to become teachers on their own or other islands. Many have gone forth from these schools already to the heathen islands, one of whom have been honoured by God to lay the foundation on which others are now building. We do not find the same readiness on the part of our teachers to embark in missionary work as in former years. It may be that the ardour of their first love is on the decline; and in the present reduced state of the population the people are very unwilling to leave the island. Nevertheless, Aneiteum is still favourably represented abroad, and we are yearly adding to the number

of our teachers on the islands. There are seven teachers now labouring on Futuna, five on Tana, one on Aniwa, one on Erromanga, and three on Fate, all of whom are married men. Mrs. Geddie labours perseveringly with her orphan school. She has about forty scholars, one-half of whom reside on our own premises. The children who are not under our immediate control are very fugitive in their habits, and irregular in their attendance. This school notwithstanding these disadvantages has turned out some of the best scholars on the island.

#### PILGRIM'S PROGRESS.

The most important issue from our press during the past year has been the "Pilgrim's Progress." It was translated chiefly by Mrs. Geddie. She spent much time over it, and has succeeded in preparing a very literal and intelligible translation of the work. In some instances repetitions have been avoided, but in other respects the integrity of the work has not been interfered with. It reads well in the Aneiteum language, which is admirably adapted to express the artless sayings, the graphic descriptions, and the agreeable similitudes with which it abounds. The wonderful allegory is likely to become a popular and favorite book with the natives. They often refer to it in their public addresses, and draw many of their illustrations from it. I read it at our weekly prayer meeting and endeavour to explain it.

#### GIVING TO THE LORD.

The natives at my stations have made their contributions of arrowroot which amounted to 1200 lbs. this year. The most of it has been sent to New Zealand by the *Dayspring* to be sold, and the proceeds will be forwarded to the British and Foreign Bible Society. Our various remittances to the Society will about cover the expense of printing the New Testament and the book of Psalms. We are now in correspondence with the Society about printing the first instalment of the Old Testament, which will comprise nearly double the amount of matter contained in the New Testament, and will cost about £600 sterling. The generous manner in which the Society has always acted towards this mission entitles them to our warmest gratitude. In addition to contributions for printing the Scriptures, our natives made a systematic effort, during the past year, to raise means for the support of their teachers. They have not money to give, and their contributions consisted of native and foreign property. It was valued at £56 sterling, which was divided among 23 teachers. The property collected was of course insufficient to meet the wants of the teachers,