

highest, who can but rejoice to see these young Churches declaring themselves ready to extend the knowledge of the truth, as it is in Jesus, in the Southern Pacific. True, they have not yet Free Colleges, Professors, Fairbairn's, Smeaton's, Davidson's and Douglas's to instruct their youth, in order to make them fit foreign missionaries, but they have the will, the means, and the heart to send you. Will you comply? If you do not, unless you have very adequate and cogent reasons, I think you better, at the same time in order to be consistent, cease to pray "Thy kingdom come," so far at least as the foreign field is concerned. Just consider for a moment, as in the presence of the heart-searching Jehovah, the case of one who is called on in Providence to go to the heathen, but refuses to go, yet prays for the extension of Christ's kingdom among the nations; does not such conduct appear to you a little like sham and mockery? To me it is quite a puzzle, far more difficult to unravel than any metaphysics Kant and Hamilton ever wrote, that any of you who are really born again, made new creatures in Christ Jesus, should refuse to go anywhere to declare the glad tidings of great joy! But some of you may tell me that you have already made up your minds for India, Africa or China.—All right I rejoice to hear it. By all means go. But how many of you may go? The great majority will remain at home, and will put forth such sickening reasons, or rather poor excuses, as the following for doing so,—1. There is enough to do at home. 2. We have plenty of home heathen to evangelize. 3. We are not called upon to leave our native land in order to be cooked and eaten by savages. But surely such miserable excuses are not worthy of you, although they might satisfy the blunt consciences of the fossil moderates of the latter end of the last and beginning of the present century. No doubt there is much to do at home, but consider the many that are at home to do it. As a medical student, and visiting as such some of the worst places and most degraded persons in Edinburgh, I know something of the home heathen, but that has not made me feel less for the foreign heathen. I like fairness, and meanwhile I plead only for fair play to the latter—give them the Bible in their own tongue, and place schools and churches within their reach, and have the former not all that in abundance already? Difficulties and trials, dangers and violent death you may expect on heathen shores, and among cannibals; but if you are afraid to meet these you better make up your mind at once not to come. We don't want you. We have had enough of that sort. You can stay at home. You may make good home policemen, but not fit soldiers for

Christ. But, dear brethren, we are persuaded better things of you. Be loyal to the *Prince of Peace*. Notice how loyal the children of the world are in erecting statues! What displays, demonstrations and turns out, sufficient to make one sick. Will you be behind them in showing your liberality to the King of Glory? Will you not turn out to the foreign field, and thereby show your compassion for the poor heathen, as well as your regard for the last command of the risen Saviour?

A letter from you at your convenience will oblige.

Yours very truly,  
J. McNAIR.

Should any of you think of offering yourselves to any of the Churches referred to for this mission, either Dr. Goold or Prof. Smeaton, Edinburgh, will be glad to assist you.

#### Letter from Rev. Joseph Copeland.

ALL WELL-CLIMATE-INTERCOURSE WITH  
NATIVES—DISCOURAGEMENTS ETC.

FOTUNA, April 30th, 1867.

*My Dear Sir*,—We have now been six months on this island, and as the *Dayspring* is due, we are preparing our letters in the hope that by forwarding them to Aneiteum, they may by and-by reach some post-office. Since the mission vessel left us early in December, we have had no opportunity of sending letters in any direction.

I am thankful to say that since I last wrote you have been well. Fotuna is reputed to be healthy, and free from fever and ague; but so far as our experience of its climate goes, it does not differ much in that respect from the other islands. The past summer has been very hot. The average minimum temperature in the shade was 77° for January and March, 78.5° for February, and about 45° for this month. From this you can form some idea of what the average maximum has been. On the other hand, we had no hurricanes, not even a gale, and not much rain. The natives have enjoyed good health, and the number of deaths has been small. Food had been plentiful for Fotuna, peace has prevailed, and there has been little to cause excitement. For these and other favourable circumstances, we desire to feel especially thankful in the early months of our residence among a superstitious people.

We have had a good deal of intercourse with the natives, more particularly at first. Many came to see us and our house with its contents, while others came to dispose of food. In bartering with them we have found them to be greedy, selfish, hard to please, and unreasonable.