

*Brightening Prospects—Lord's Supper in the New Church—Voyage in the John Williams—Visit to Tana and Eromanga—Church formed on Fate—Teachers left on Apea—Ambrim and Espirito Santo—The Loyalty Islands—Proposed New Vessel—Samoan Missionaries—Tana—Mrs. Johnston.*

ANEITEUM, Nov. 4, 1861.

My Dear Brother,—

Your letter dated March 21st, came safely to hand. We were glad to hear of your welfare and that of your dear family. I beg to thank you for all your kindness to my children on their arrival at Halifax. They have written to me on the subject, and do not forget what you and others have done for them. The God to whom we committed them seems to have raised up friends to them everywhere.

I am sure we have your sympathy in the sad events that have befallen our Mission during the past year. Wave after wave has rolled over us in quick succession. This is no new thing in the history of Missions and our trials were no doubt needed or they would not have been sent. It may be that God is preparing us as a Church for great usefulness by the severe discipline which he has seen fit to impose on us. Let us so improve them that they may tend to our good and make us in earnest about the salvation of others. The clouds, I feel thankful to say, have begun to pass away, and a bright and glorious day is dawning on the New Hebrides.

The work advances hopefully on this island. The Lord's Supper was dispensed last Sabbath, and 29 persons were admitted for the first time. This is a larger number than we have admitted at any previous communion. The whole congregation numbered about 1200 persons. We met in our new Church which was opened on the Friday previous. It is much superior to what it was before the fire. The walls have been raised and the centre windows in the sides and ends have been arched, which improves its appearance. The internal arrangements are the same as before, but the workmanship is better. The pulpit was ornamented with a beautiful blue covering and velvet cushion sent from Nova Scotia, by my daughter Charlotte, who purchased them with money given to her for this object. I trust that the building which has cost the natives so

much trouble may be valued by them, and that it may become the birth-place of many souls.

I have just returned from a voyage among the New Hebrides and Loyalty Islands, in the *John Williams*, in company with the Rev. A. W. Murray of the Samoan Mission. It occupied six weeks. We visited several new islands and placed teachers on some of them. I am preparing a short account of our voyage for the Board of Missions which I hope to send in a vessel which will sail for Sydney about a month hence. I may in the mean time give you a very brief sketch of it. We first visited Tana and found matters there progressing slowly in the right direction. After leaving Tana and calling at *Mira* we anchored at Dillon's Bay, Eromanga. We found things here much better than we expected. A good number of natives favour Christianity, and long for religious teachers. We landed and shed a tear over the graves of poor Gordon and his wife. We gained some additional information about their death which will be noticed in the account of our voyage. You will see from the list of resolutions which accompany this letter that we still regard Eromanga as a hopeful field of labour, and I trust the day is not far distant when we will have a prosperous Mission there. Leaving Eromanga we sailed to *Fate*—found the teachers well. Formed a small Church. Eleven natives of the island were baptised and partook with us of the Lord's Supper during the Sabbath we spent there. The candidates were carefully examined by Mr. Murray and myself before they were received. We were surprised and thankful at their clear views of divine truth although they have not a word printed in their own language. All their knowledge has been derived from the verbal instructions of the teachers. These humble men have been honored to do a great work. The next island visited was *Apea*. The ship had never been here before. We had an Apea native on board whom we had picked on *Fate*, through him we succeeded in making known our object to the natives of the Island. They readily consented to receive two teachers from us. They were settled on this dark island under encouraging prospects. We were warned by the traders not to land on Apea, as they were ferocious savages, but we did not find them so. They gave