

the house has been converted into a place of worship the sides and ends have been wattled and plastered. A little alteration and improvement might make this building a suitable place of worship for many years to come.

The king invited us to visit his private residence. He took us into a yard where we saw several grass houses, all of which were circular like a haystack and neatly made. Every house had a carved image on the pinnacle of the roof, the usual emblem of royalty. There were several graves in the yard containing the remains of the different members of the family. These were built up with stone and plastered over with lime. At the head of each grave there was a post 5 or 6 feet high surmounted by a small flag of white or red calico or native cloth. Great attention is paid to these graves and those we saw were whitewashed recently. We saw several graves in other places very similar to those on the chiefs' premises.

There are three French priests on the island, but they have not gained much influence among the natives. They made themselves repulsive by threatening the natives with visits of men of war to punish them. The chiefs who favor our teachers are kept in a state of constant uneasiness by these unmanly threats. If there were only an English missionary, there would be few converts to popery on this island. An earnest appeal has been forwarded to the London Missionary Society to send a missionary to Wea without delay. As a temporary arrangement Messrs Creagh, Jones, & McFarlane have agreed to visit the island in turns. The chiefs and people need all the encouragement that can be given to them in their present trying circumstances.

The object of our voyage being now accomplished we steered our course for Aneiteum, calling at Lifu and Mare, to land the brethren who had accompanied us. A voyage of a few days brought us to our destination. As Mr and Mrs Murray intend to go to Sydney they left the ship at this island, and will remain here until they meet with a vessel bound there. This voyage winds up their connection with the missionary work in which they have labored with honor and success for 25 years. It was with them that we commenced our missionary work at Samoa, and now they have come to close theirs at Aneiteum. Their brief residence on this island we regard as a great privilege. Thus ended the most important voyage as yet made by the missionary ship in these dark and distant isles of the sea.

JOHN GEDDIE.

Rev. J. Bayne, Sec. B. F. M., P. C. L. C.

LETTERS FROM MR. GEDDIE.

ANEITEUM, Dec. 12th, 1861.

REV AND DEAR SIR,—

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of date February 18th. No part of it gave me more pleasure than your remarks on the union between the Free Church and our own. The influence of this happy event will I trust be extensively felt on the cause of religion both at home and abroad. It was the prayer of Christ that his people might be "one," that the world might "believe" on him.

You will be glad to hear that the members of the mission on this island enjoy a moderate share of health. There is still much sickness among the natives, many of whom suffer from the effects of the measles. Their constitutions have been left in an enfeebled state, and a proportion larger than usual sink under even the ordinary diseases of the island. The number of deaths since this time last year is between 1100 and 1200. How fearful the depravity of those who knowingly, if not designedly introduced among an unoffending people, the scourge that has been attended with such fatal results. We feel deeply the loss of so many of our early friends, but there is still a precious remnant among whom we labor. I feel thankful to say that the events of the past year seem to have had a solemnizing influence on many of the natives, and there is a more than usual attention to religion. The desire to make a public profession of the Savior is becoming very general. At our communion in October last 29 adults were baptized and took their seats at the Lord's table for the first time; and a class of candidates which meets every other week is attended by 49 persons. Appearances are hopeful as far as man can judge, but God only knoweth the heart. May we in this distant isle enjoy times of refreshing from on high. Unite with us in prayer to God that His Spirit may be poured out on us as showers on the thirsty ground.