

her come. The natives are all delighted at the idea of her coming.

Elizabeth and John are very healthy. Since we left our old house Elizabeth has not had fever and ague. They both have a good colour, which is not common in these climates. Elizabeth is very much like what Janey was, with black hair and eyes. John is like Lucy. His eyes are brown and his hair is light.—They both speak this language most fluently, and in speaking English they use the native idioms, besides employing a great many native words. I often feel at a loss myself for a word, and I know I spell very incorrectly in writing, using our native sounds, for instance, *i* for *e* and *e* for *a* and *g* for *c*, &c. I write native every day and English only occasionally.

I imagine Mrs Gordon is an English lady. Is it because there is little missionary spirit among our young ladies at home? I was in hopes that Mrs Gordon would be a countrywoman. Still I am prepared to love her come whence she will. It little matters if she is a Christian. Were Mrs Inglis my own sister we could not get on more harmoniously than we do—and I have many dear friends among the ladies at Samoa. No matter where we come from we are all sisters out here. We are all engaged in the same work and our object is the same, although supported by different Societies.

Please remember us kindly to all our River John friends, not forgetting my little namesake. Tell her there are many little girls here that can read nicely and sew very neatly. They can also some of them make beds, sweep rooms, &c. I hope your daughter and her young friends will continue to interest themselves for their Aneiteum sisters.—The gingham which they sent them has been very useful to them. If they could see the girls all dressed alike in the garments which they provided for them they would be much pleased. These gingham, corded with white or trimmed with white braid, are their best dresses and look so nice. I wish it were not so far away that they might send in return some shells or specimens of their work.

Hoping to have lots of letters from you and other dear friends when the "John Williams" arrives I am with much love

C. L. GEDDIE.

There may be among your readers

those who will consider private letters containing minute details such as these of too little importance to be published to the world. It is not for such persons that they are sent. It is for those who see in the small matters of domestic and female life marks of improvement and grounds of encouragement such as can be obtained in no other way and rejoice in them that these extracts are furnished. They come in reply to urgent application, and they will be welcomed I know by thousands to whom our first Mission family and all that concerns them are objects of deep interest. Who can help sympathising with the anxious mother in her anticipations of the return of the child of her love to be her help and her solace in the midst of so many cares. Who can fail to mark with admiration the progress made in the improvement of the natives during the absence of that child, or help being delighted with the room furnished for her by boys and girls from whom at her departure she had been sent away as if for fear of contamination and injury.

Who can help being delighted with the testimony that the Mission field is now the home of our loved friends—the home not of duty merely but of affection, and who will not rejoice in the evidence thus afforded that even in sacrifice for Christ there is present and great reward. The home of youth is not less dear—it is rendered doubly dear by distance of time and space—but it has not attractions sufficient to overcome the new affections that have been developed in scenes of felt usefulness and realized enjoyment. Who would hesitate to leave a scene of enjoyment for one of greater happiness and delight! Who will esteem the Mission life an expatriation when it furnishes a dearer home as well as wider usefulness.

How many a youthful contributor to the comfort of missionaries and converts will be cheered to find that their exertions in the good cause are appreciated, and that the once degraded savages sit at the feet of Jesus and learn his way clothed in habiliments furnished by their united but small donations—and will any relax their exertions when appealed to by one who has devoted herself to their service and is delighted to do them good and when they see that out of the mouth of babes and sucklings God ordains praise.

J. WADDELL.