

not think of giving up their pastor, to whom they were ardently attached. Dr. Keir, who presided at their meeting, proposed that they should adjourn for a week, and pray over the matter. They met again at the time appointed, and resolved, "The hand of the Lord is here, and we now submit."

Mr. GEDDIE left for the South Seas late in the fall of 1846. The previous twelve-month he spent in visiting congregations and preparing for his future work. He proceeded by way of the United States, and sailed from Newbury Port for the Sandwich islands on the 28th January, 1847. After a tedious and perilous voyage round Cape Horn the Sandwich Islands were reached in July. Much kindness was experienced at the hands of native christians and American Missionaries in this interesting group. From the Sandwich Islands Mr. GEDDIE proceeded to SAMOA, where he remained from October, 1847, till the summer of 1848. Here he enjoyed the kind hospitality, brotherly counsel, and professional experience of the Missionaries of the London Missionary Society, and acquired much information with regard to the mode of conducting their work. These Missionaries received him as a fellow-worker in the Lord, and appointed one of their number, the Rev. Mr. Powell, to co-operate with him in a new mission. They have ever continued the fast friends of our Mission and our Missionaries, and their counsel and aid have been invaluable.

On the 13th July, 1848, he landed on ANEITEUM, the scene of his subsequent labours. Mr. Powel remained with him several months till the work was fairly begun, and then returned to Samoa. Mr. GEDDIE was the first Missionary who was stationed on this island. He found the natives sunk in the lowest depths of moral degradation, hateful and hating one another, and yet uniting in their hatred and distrust of all white men, whom they regarded as "traders" of the same character as those who deal in sandal-wood. For four long lonely years Mr. Geddie laboured on that island, encountering innumerable trials, and through the grace of God overcoming every

dificulty. His life was often in peril. The club of the assassin was once and again raised to deal the fatal blow. The torch of the incendiary was once and again applied to the Mission premises. The struggle was protracted and severe, yet the victory came at last. God honoured his own work. In May, 1852, the first christian church was formed on Aneiteum. Fifteen natives were baptized. Heathenism was tottering to its fall. The island was evidently won to Jehovah.

In 1852 the Rev. John Inglis, of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Scotland, was providentially led to accept Mr. Geddie's invitation to co-operate in the good work; and, ever since, the two churches have laboured side by side with the most satisfactory results.

When Mr. Geddie landed on the island there was not a written word in the language. The natives had never seen a book, and would be terrified at the sight of one, thinking that an evil spirit was in it. The language of these people he learnt, and reduced to writing. He formed a grammar and vocabulary, and translated into it the whole New Testament, the Book of Psalms, and other portions of God's word. The New Testament has been in the hands of the people for nearly three years, and the Book of Psalms is just put through the press here,—the first thing of the kind published in this country. A church stands on Aneiteum, which is more commodious and substantial than any belonging to our home congregations. It has been erected wholly by the people themselves, under the direction of the missionary, and with the use of tools supplied by Poplar Grove Church in Halifax. Old and young have learnt, and are still learning to read. The voice of praise and prayer ascends every morning and evening from hundreds of christian homes.

Such, in brief, is the present condition of Aneiteum. Worn by many years of hard service, in a tropical climate, Mr. and Mrs. Geddie, with two children, left Aneiteum two years ago for a visit to these provinces. Of this visit it is not needful for us to speak. Almost all our congregations have