

We have introduced the cultivation of cotton this year; and we at one time thought of making them pay for their Testaments from their first year's cotton crop; but to say nothing of the fact, that it will be nearly a twelvemonth before that can be in the market, I found, on our return to this island in July last, that the natives were collecting and preparing a large quantity of arrowroot, as a contribution to the mission, and there was also a quantity lying over from the previous year. In all the circumstances of the case, we advised the natives to appropriate this as part payment for their Testaments. It has been prepared with great care, under the superintendence of the missionaries, hence we can warrant its being *genuine*. We are very desirous that the natives should pay for the whole of the Testaments, and that their arrowroot should be sold to the best advantage. We are consigning it to earnest friends of our mission in different parts of Australia, New Zealand, and at home. We are sending off just now about 6000 lb.

The cotton enterprise promises well; the natives are taking up the cultivation of the plant with much energy. There is not a settlement on this island in which there is not more or less planted. Cotton is indigenous to this island; it grows the whole year round, and yields two crops in the year. We have been supplied with the best foreign seed from Manchester. The seed sown in July and August is not only in blossom, but is fast opening its snow-white silky fibres to the sun. The season, too, has been very propitious; the earth, with natural fondness, opened her soft, warm bosom to receive the feeble nursling; the paternal sun smiled most lovingly on the timid, trembling exile; and the genial skies shed copious tears of sympathy on this forlorn but promising stranger. Under these fostering influences, it is fast growing up into loving favor, and is becoming the admiration of the whole island. The fact that it is coming so fast to maturity, and promising such a speedy return, is giving very sensible support to the rather weak and faltering faith of the planters.

When fully Christianized, but not till Christianized, the commercial value of these islands will become great. The present island trade is doing little or nothing to benefit the natives or develop the resources of the islands. In most cases it is doing the very opposite; it is carried on at great risks; it may enrich a few individuals; it has done so; but it is doing nothing for the general or permanent interests either of commerce or humanity. These islands are totally unfit for colonising purposes: the climate is unhealthy, and there is no extent of unoccupied land.—But as far and as fast as the natives are

Christianized, they will cultivate and sell cotton, coffee, arrowroot, cocoa-nut oil, oranges, and other tropical productions, and purchase manufactured goods in return. What has been done on one island may, with the blessing of God, be as soon and as effectually done over the whole group, if the missionary agency and the money power are supplied to the requisite amount. If we take the whole history of the South Sea Missions as the basis of our calculations, we find that on an average every missionary sent forth to these islands gathers in 2000 converts, 200 of whom are church members; and every 100/ expended on these missions supplies the money power requisite for bringing 100 heathens to the profession of Christianity, ten of whom will be members of the visible church. In the face of all these facts, we do trust that the Churches of New South Wales and of all Australia will awaken to a full sense of the obligations resting upon them, to extend the knowledge of the Gospel among these benighted and degraded, but hopeful islanders. They and others responded nobly to the first appeal made in behalf of this group; but we hope that this will be simply an earnest of general, sustained, and permanent efforts to bring the multitude of these isles under the dominion of Him who is the Prince of Peace, and the Author of eternal salvation.

ANEITYUM, Dec. 1863.

SYSTEMATIC GIVING.

The following is an abstract of the report of the Committee on Systematic Beneficence, submitted to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, at their recent meeting in Pictou:

“That in accordance with the instructions of the last Synod they had printed and circulated ten thousand copies of their last Report; that marked progress is being made within the bounds of the Synod, both in giving *systematically* and also in *proportion* to income; that the Presbytery of Halifax takes the lead in this progress, while Chalmers' Church, Halifax, is mentioned as deserving of special notice, having raised over £100 for schemes of the church, after punctually paying the stipulated salary of £300 to their own pastor; the congregations of Nine Mile River, Newport, Shubenacadie and North Cornwallis were named as making praiseworthy efforts in the same direction; that although