

## LETTER FROM REV. S. F. JOHNSTON.

*Emotions at seeing Aneiteum—landing—welcomed by the natives—impression of the Mission premises—meeting with the Missionaries—review of the voyage—urgent necessity for prayer.*

ANEITEUM, July 2nd, 1860.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

After a very tedious passage from the Figis, and on the morning of the 25th ult., before sunrise, I was the first to descry Aneiteum, in the distance. A sight of the land which has so largely occupied the minds of our good people at home; to which we have so long looked forward with such deep interest and anxiety, and in which we anticipate spending our days, awakened in our bosoms emotions, not to be expressed in words.

The entrance to the harbour was not reached till the afternoon. No person coming off to us, we were greatly disappointed, and the Captain had to act as pilot. We came to anchor safely abreast of the mission premises. As seen from the harbour, the mission buildings, and especially the new church, have quite an imposing appearance. A native soon came off to us in a canoe. Being able to speak a little English, he informed us that Mr. and Mrs. Geddie were over on the other side of the island, at Mr Inglis' station. We gave him a note for Mr G., with which he hastened away with as much dispatch as though he had been entrusted with some important message from her Majesty's Government. We then landed, and received a most cordial welcome from the natives who were about the premises. One would have supposed that we were their acquaintances, who had just returned from a long absence. They conducted us through the mission grounds to the house, and showed us to the parlour, saying to us, "*here, parliu*" Mary, the wife of the young chief—son of the late chief, Nohoat, and once one of Mrs G's girls, waited upon us, preparing tea, performing the duties of the table, showing us to bed, &c., in a manner most pleasing to us, and highly creditable to herself. We had quite a time shaking hands, for all from the youngest to the eldest must welcome us to their shores. We were quite delighted with everything we saw—the buildings, the garden, the walks, the fences, trees, &c., were so tasty and beautiful. When we had walked round, seen every thing, and the natives so changed, happy, smiling, and so full of kindness, we were ready to exclaim, "The half had not been told us."

On *Tuesday*, 26th, about noon, Messrs Geddie and Copeland, and Mrs. G. arrived. I need not tell you it was a most happy meeting. I felt it to be one of the happiest moments of my life. We found Mr. and Mrs. G. younger in appearance, and more vigorous than we expected. Still, however, Mr. G. thinks he will require a rest ere long. We immediately commenced landing the mission goods and were for several days occupied with this work. All the mission supplies were in the very best condition. They say, these are the first mission supplies which had not received damage by the way. I hope that when goods are forwarded to these Islands, good strong boxes will be provided, and they should be lined with *tin*, and soldered, so as to be water-tight. A little trouble of this kind may save your supplies, which are invaluable to the missionary, and expensive to yourselves, from complete ruin. Boxes have arrived here, whose contents have been destroyed on the passage—being wet, &c. Some of our boxes were a mere wreck by the time we reached our destination.

Thus ends our long voyage. We have sailed above 20,000 miles, passing over seas, oceans, and through various climes—resided nearly five months on the ocean wave—spent 7 months and 17 days since we embarked on board the *Eastern Star*, and 6 months and 25 days since we sailed from America. We, and all that has been entrusted to our care have been landed safely—ourselves in the enjoyment of excellent health; and the goods in the best condition. In this happy termination of our long voyage, I trust that many prayers, offered by our friends in Cape Breton, P. E. Island, and Nova Scotia have been answered. In God's kindness and tenderness to us, and His preserving care exercised over all that has been entrusted to us, may you all recognize his willingness to answer prayer, and be encouraged to continue and increase your earnest supplications in behalf of all the interests of this mission. Forget not to praise the Lord, and to render thanks unto His