

# Canadian Presbyterian Magazine:

Especially devoted to the interests of the United Presbyterian Church.

"SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, THAT THEY GO FORWARD."—*Exodus xiv., 15.*

Vol. II.—No. 8.]

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1853.

{ PRICE: \$1 PER ANNUM,  
Paid in advance.

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE	ORIGINAL ARTICLES—	PAGE
RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE—			
Aneiteum . . . . .	113	U. P. Church History . . . . .	122
China—Rev. A. W. Loomis . . . . .	114	Duty of Members of Congrega- tions . . . . .	124
Islands of PANAIA as a Mis- sion Field . . . . .	115	The Value of the Bible . . . . .	125
Old Calabar . . . . .	115	MISCELLANEOUS—	
Jamaica . . . . .	115	Poetry— <i>I shall be Satisfied</i> . . . . .	126
Ireland's Mission Field . . . . .	118	Lough Derg Pilgrims . . . . .	126
EDITORIAL NOTICES—		Francesco Madat . . . . .	127
Items . . . . .	119	Private Devotions . . . . .	123
Alora . . . . .	120	Two in Heaven . . . . .	123
Hymn Book . . . . .	120	John Bayan . . . . .	123
Toronto Presbytery . . . . .	120	Receipts . . . . .	128
Durham Presbytery . . . . .	121		

## Religious Intelligence.

### ANEITEUM—GLAD TIDINGS FROM THE FOREIGN FIELD.

*From the Nova-Scotia Presbyterian Register.*

In our last No. we gave an extract of deeply interesting intelligence from Aneiteum, under date April 20th, 1852; and it must be matter of lively congratulation, with every friend of the mission, that we are now enabled to announce the arrival of letters both private and official, which contain intelligence of three months later date, and of a character much more satisfactory.

The perilous condition of Mr. Geddie's health must have been felt, by every reflecting mind, to be the ground of very grave apprehension, as to the permanency, as well as prosperity of the mission.

What then should be our gratitude!—now, that we are called to entertain the strong assurance, that failing health has been completely recruited, for says Mr. Geddie, "I have not enjoyed better health since I landed on the island than I do at the present time." Now, that we hear of a true yoke-fellow having gone to his assistance, and being located in a neighboring station on the same island—now, that with the able and experienced counsel and aid of two Agents from the London Missionary Society from Samoa, our Missionary has been able to organize a Church, with every prospect of its rapid establishment and extension—what shall we, and what can we say! *The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad.*

We have, for some time past, fondly indulged in secret, the opinion to which we now very freely give publicity, that the Aneiteum Mission is destined to be one of the brightest gems in the Crown of Glory which "the Lord, the righteous Judge will give, unto the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia at that day when he shall make up his Jewels.

The following Extracts from Mr. Geddie's recent communications, comprise all that he has written for the Board, with the exception of such statements as are obviously designed for their private use.

ANEITEUM, N. H., July 22, 1852.

*Arrival of the John Williams.*—The John Williams arrived here on May 14th, after an absence of two years and eight months. The Rev. Messrs. Murray and Sunderland, of the Samoan mission, came in her, as a deputation to visit the New Hebrides and Royalty Islands. Those brethren were accompanied by their wives, both of whom were in a delicate state of health. We were much encouraged and cheered by the visit of these dear brethren and sisters, and we had all their sympathy in our peculiar circumstances.

*Sea Voyage for Health.*—At the time when the John Williams arrived, I was just recovering from the effects of a severe attack of illness. I was laid up with the island fever about the middle of March last, and this again was followed by fever and ague, which brought me very low. For more than two months I was an invalid. Captain Morgan and the brethren from Samoa kindly invited me to accompany them in their missionary voyage around the islands, in the hope that my health might be benefited by the change. I did not consent to go, until Mrs. Geddie, who was to be alone on the Island, and to suffer the greatest inconvenience from the arrangement, pressed the matter, as it appeared the most likely means of averting a larger and more expensive voyage to some of the colonies, and an absence from the mission, which, in its present state, would

have been disastrous to its best interests. I kept a brief record of our visit to the several islands, which I shall transmit to you.—Our voyage was one of surpassing interest. At all the islands we found much to encourage, and but little to discourage missionary exertion. The Isles, in this part of the Pacific are literally waiting for the law of God. Even on the blood stained shore of Erromanga, we thought it safe to land, on the very spot where Williams was killed; and we left two teachers there, at the request of the people. I have twice received letters from the teachers since they were landed, and they write in encouraging terms about their prospects. The harvest on these islands truly is great, but, alas! the labourers are few. After an absence from Aneiteum of about four weeks, I reached home completely recruited by my short sea voyage; and I have never enjoyed better health since I landed on the island than I do at the present time.

*Organization of the Church.*—The subject of constituting a Christian church on this island has been the occasion of much solicitude to me during the past year. I felt a conviction of my own mind that the time had come for this; but I was unwilling to act in this matter on my own responsibility. I delayed until the arrival of the John Williams, in the hope that I might meet with parties to whom I could refer for advice. You will be pleased to hear, that the brethren from Samoa approved of the formation of a church, in this island. The ordinance of baptism was accordingly administered to 15 natives, 13 of whom were adults, and a church was duly constituted. The ordinance of the Supper was also dispensed on the Sabbath which the missionary brethren spent here. The whole occasion was one of deep and immortal interest. Besides our native members, several Samoan and Karotongan teachers, destined for labour in the neighbouring islands, the captain, officers and some of the crew of the John Williams, and the mission families, sat down to commemorate on the table the death of Christ. The services were conducted in the Aneiteum, Samoan and English languages. The Church of Aneiteum is the first christian church that has been formed among a new branch of the human family—the Oceanic, or Negro, or Papuan race. I trust that through the goodness and mercy of God, you may, time after time, be cheered with refreshing news, from our infant church, and that your prayers, for its prosperity and increase, will be constantly presented, on its behalf.

*Prospect of Enlargement.*—I rejoice to inform you that we prosecute our labours with much encouragement at present. Though many of the heathen are yet hostile to christianity, yet the cause of God triumphs in the face of all opposition. The natives, tired of the old system, with its obscenities and crimes, are fast forsaking it, and coming over to the Lord's side. You would be surprised and delighted to witness the earnestness, which members manifest to be instructed in the Word of God. They come to the station from remote parts of the island, and spend a few days to learn what they can, and then return to their own lands to teach their neighbors, and thus the good seed is scattered.

The public ordinances of religion are well attended at this station, and also at all the out-stations. Our meeting house here is now too small, and we have lately commenced a larger building. The members who attend our school at this station are on the increase. At present we have about 100 regular scholars, 60 of whom are females, and more immediately under Mrs. Geddie's superintendence. About 200 scholars in all, receive daily instruction at the several out stations. We have two Samoans, one Karotongan, and one native of this island acting as teachers at present. The latter has lately been set a part to the work. He is a young man of great promise, and a member of our little church. His labours have already been much blessed, and he promises to become an efficient agent, in the work of evangelizing his benighted countrymen.

*Education of native Teachers.*—We have lately had a visit from the bishop of New Zealand. He came in the mission schooner *Border Maid*. The Boy whom I sent to the bishop's institution last year returned with him. During the time that he spent in New Zealand his attention was devoted to the study of the English language and printing, in both of which departments he has made surprising progress. He brought with him a small elementary school book, as a specimen of his printing, which was well executed and very neat. When I sent him to New Zealand I designed him to remain for three years, but he begged that he might not be sent again, as he dreaded the cold of that climate very much. He resides with me now, and I hope soon to have him at work.