

I can say little about myself. I feel more and more that I will be happy in the work. Though *deep* spiritual darkness broods over these fair isles, and dangers surround, yet I would not be discouraged; for Christ has said, *Preach the gospel to every creature, and to I am with you always*. When the brethren meet, my particular field of labour will be decided upon. My prayer is that we may all be Divinely directed in this most solemn matter. It appears probable that I will be located on Tanna. Let the friends at home remember that it is the opinion of the missionaries that, humanly speaking, the lives of the missionaries are in great jeopardy on Tanna. The sickness which has been in the mission families there, the natives attribute to the displeasure of the gods on account of the *new* religion. They tell Mr. Paton that the death of his wife is an evidence that Christianity is not good. And Mr. Paton says that when he accompanied Mr. Matheson to his station on his return the heathen appeared greatly enraged, and said that he had come to bring sickness among them. He says that their lives were in great peril on that occasion. The agent who came with us from Melbourne to transact business on Tanna, and on account of which the schooner sailed for Western Polynesia, dare not land when he arrived and *immediately left*. They were all terrified, and thought that no man's life would be safe. I merely state these things that you may know the state of matters as they exist at present. For, if you know not our circumstances here, how is it possible that you can pray aright for us? Do not suppose I am discouraged *in the least*. No! the field is *full* of hope, and full of work. CEASE not to pray for us fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, and ALL WILL BE WELL. Do not sink into *ease* or confidence, or into the other extreme—despondency. Persevere, go forward in faith and hope and prayer, and opposition, difficulties, trials, dangers will disappear, just as the darkness flies before the rays of the rising sun. The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing under his wings and shed forth his gracious influences among those benighted people—giving light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death—guiding their feet into the way of peace, and at last bringing their souls into eternal glory and felicity.

Yours in a precious Saviour,
SAMUEL F. JOHNSTON.

OUR CHURCH NEWS.

We learn with great satisfaction that the congregation of River John have given a cordial and unanimous Call to the Rev. Mr. McDonald to be their minister. This congregation is one of the oldest in connection with the late Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia; and Mr McDonald is a licentiate of the late Free Church. About fifteen Free Church families living in or near River John have joined the congregation. All this is as it should be, and illustrates forcibly the value of union, as well as the cordiality with which the people on both sides have entered into it. River John has set an admirable example before other parts of the Church. We are all brethren now—practically and theoretically.

PRESBYTERY OF TRURO.—The Presbytery of Truro met, as appointed for visitation at Great Village, on Tuesday the 11th, and at the Colly on Wednesday the 12th. The various operations in both congregations were found to be in an efficiently working condition. In financial matters the Presbytery were specially pleased with the report from the Portauquique section of Londonderry. The managers not only stated that all was paid up to the present time, but also that the people were prompt in meeting their engagements to their minister. Great Village seemed to have fallen a little behind, but, on investigation, this was found to have arisen merely from a slight misunderstanding among the managers. This being rectified, all were confident that matters would speedily return back to their former good order. In Upper Londonderry the managers reported that they had not been able fully to settle accounts with their minister, but would have the whole made up by the end of the present year.