

LETTER FROM MR. GEDDIE.

ANEITEUM, Oct. 18th, 1860.

[Church completely organized—number of Elders and Communicants—Contributions for Missions—the new Church—News from Tana—Dr. McGregor's Memoir—Disposal of clothing, &c.]

MY DEAR BROTHER,—

I received your welcome letter by Mr. Johnson. It cheers us to know that you and other friends have not forgotten us. It often happens that absent friends are overlooked amidst the pressure of business, but this has not been the case in our experience.

We were much delighted with the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Johnston. They spent some time on this island before going to their destination. We have been led to form a very favourable opinion of them both. They will, I doubt not, prove agreeable associates, and devoted and successful missionaries.

I need not enlarge about the work on this island. You will be glad to hear that we have now a completely organized church. I am now assisted by several ruling elders and a larger number of deacons. The number of members at present is 179, and we expect to add fifteen more next week. On the whole we have much encouragement in our work on this island. Many indeed are careless and do not improve their advantages, but not a few seem to be in earnest about the one thing needful. You will be glad to hear that a collection has this year been made for the support of the mission. The amount contributed on the whole islands was as follows:—Money, £2, 4s.—Cocoa nut oil, 10 gallons—Arrow-root, 5400 lbs., also a quantity of native property. The natives seem willing to do what they can, and more than this we cannot and ought not to expect. If Nova Scotia were not so distant we might keep your market supplied with arrow root.

Our new church was opened a few months ago. It is a very commodious and substantial building. We have lately received windows for it from Sydney. The natives are now busy getting logs out of the bush to pay for them. It will take about sixty logs to do this. The *John Knox* has this day arrived from Tana. I have received letters from Messrs. Paton and Johnston by her. They have just completed a most interesting missionary voyage round the island. They landed on the west side of the island and at the place where the massacres have taken place of late years. They met with a most friendly reception. You will no doubt have a full account of this visit from Mr. Johnston's letter. Two Aneiteum Teachers will be sent to the place where they landed without delay. We are anxious to occupy this place, as it is a central point from which the gospel may radiate to the surrounding districts, and the anchorage is good. It is encouraging to us to know that the interest of the church at home in the mission continues. May it never diminish but rather increase. These islands present an interesting field for the missionary operations of any church. The measure of encouragement we have already had ought to stimulate to further exertion. The isles appear to be literally waiting for the law of God.

Our dear children have I suppose reached Nova Scotia before this time. If you have seen them they would be able to give some information about this island. Our island home has lost much of its charms since they left. It is sad to part with our children at so tender an age when a parent's care is so much wanted. We commit them to God, trusting to the promise that he will be a "Father to the fatherless." Under his guardianship they will be well when far removed from us.

I read with great satisfaction and I trust with some profit the Memoir of your excellent father. He comes nearer Paul than any man of whom I have ever read. Mr. Patterson has conferred a great boon on our church in preparing the memoir. No minister or student or missionary should be without a copy of it. The only thing that reconciles one's mind to its being so long withheld from the church is the fact that it has fallen into such excellent hands to prepare it. I think that if I had read such a book when I was young, I would have been a more useful man.

We are very thankful for the clothing &c., sent to the natives. Some of the boxes came without any particular address. As we were all abundantly supplied for our respective stations, I suggested that they should be set apart for the use of the