

ones who manifest a commendable interest in the work.

I beg leave to add that our church can never flourish in these localities until a place of Worship and a Manse are erected at the Mines. It would be difficult to say which building is most needed. As measures are about to be taken for removing these obstacles to our progress, I doubt not the congregation will receive the countenance and aid of the older and wealthier portions of the church. There never were more people within the sphere of our labors than at present, and the number must soon increase, especially at the Iron Works. Unless the Presbyterian Church follow up the advantages which of right belong to it, the ground may be occupied by other and more enterprising churches. "Lord increase our faith."

Respectfully submitted,

J. NELSON.

Our Foreign Missions.

Latest from Dr. Geddie.

GEELONG, March 20, 1871.

DEAR SIR,—You have been informed of our safe arrival in Australia. We reached here late in January, after an unusually boisterous voyage. Being later than usual in leaving the islands, we encountered the outer circle of a hurricane. The barometer fell to 28° 18', being lower than ever it was in the "Dayspring." Our upper yards were all lowered, and we rode out the storm with comparative ease.

The work goes on at my station as usual during my absence. The Rev. Mr. Inglis spends an occasional Sabbath there, and the elders are regularly employed in conducting worship in their different districts. Mr. Goodwill lives at my station during my absence, having come there at the recommendation of the brethren to spend the first unhealthy season. Neither he nor Mrs. Goodwill was robust when I left the island. I hope that they will both be able to return to this island when the "Dayspring" goes back to the New Hebrides.

Our efforts to open up new islands have been crowned with some success. We now occupy the middle and extreme ends of the group. Every island of the New Hebrides will, by the time this reaches you, be within sight of an island where the Gospel is made known. When a few more missionaries are settled it will not be necessary for any one of our number to devote his time to the introduction of the Gospel into new islands. The different missionaries will be able to operate with advantage on the islands in their immediate neighbourhood.

God has prospered the efforts to extend His cause to a great extent. The evangelization of the New Hebrides is now more hopeful than ever it was.

The printing of the Aneityumese Bible is now fairly begun. The work has been undertaken by Mason, Firth & Co., Melbourne, the most extensive firm in these quarters. The British and Foreign Bible Society have assumed the responsibility of the work, but I expect that we will be able to repay all their expenditure in due time. The natives are making commendable efforts to provide themselves with the whole of God's written Word. I regret that the work must be suspended from the first of April until the close of the year. Our mission is so weak at present that I must return by the "Dayspring" to the islands. I leave my family here, and hope to return about December to resume the printing of the Bible. Mrs. Geddie is not in a fit state to return to the islands; but she is fast improving by the cold of Australia.

The traffic in natives is causing some stir in this part of the world. The manner in which a large number of these natives are procured is a disgrace to the civilization of the nineteenth century. Some of them are induced to leave home under false pretences, others are regularly bought, others are stolen from their islands, and some leave of their own accord, and of these we have nothing to say. A few of the natives who go abroad to Queensland and the Fijis meet with good treatment, and are sent home satisfied; many of the natives are ill treated and badly paid, and little attention paid to their agreements. But we complain most of the numbers who are never brought home at all. John Wesley was not far wrong when he pronounced the slave-trade the "consummation of villainies." Scenes have been enacted on the New Hebrides which are worthy of the palmy days of African slavery. The effects of the trade on these islands have been very disastrous to the natives. The New Hebrides missionaries have now their share of abuse, especially from the Queensland press, for the exposure of some of the evils of the trade. I have been writing a short letter which I enclose, and which will give you some idea what we have to bear. It would be an endless thing to notice all the scandal heaped upon us, so I have just answered one thing.

There is a vessel in Melbourne just fitting out for the New Hebrides. There are a number of young men on board who are going there as settlers. They will cultivate cotton, sugar, coffee, etc. This will tend to keep the natives on their own islands. The settlers will, from motives of self-interest, use their influence against the kidnapping and buying of natives. I have not