

plenteous, but the laborers are few. Mr. and Mrs. Geddie, after nearly sixteen years of hard incessant labor on this island, are about to pay a visit to Nova Scotia, with the view of recruiting their health and awakening a deeper interest in behalf of this group.

But some may be disposed to say, What has been accomplished by all this expenditure of men and money,—all this waste of life and labor? To a superficial observer the results might appear very small; but to those who look deeper, the results, as a whole, are worthy of all the expenditure. On all these six islands a great amount of knowledge and experience has been gained, which will be of great advantage in future operations. On every one of them deep impressions in favor of Christianity have been made. On all of them we have a native agency more or less numerous. On Erromanga we have a few church members, and a considerable number who profess Christianity and meet every Sabbath for public worship. Within the last few months there has been a decided reaction there in favor of Christianity. We have two teachers and their wives from this island residing on Erromanga. They have written to us lately, requesting us to send the other four. On Fate we have a church formed, containing about thirty members, and about 200 who profess Christianity and maintain the worship of God. On Fate they have never had a missionary residing among them. The work has all been accomplished by native teachers from Samoa and the Hervey Islands; latterly natives from this island have gone to their assistance. The John Williams visits all these islands once a year, and we co-operate with the agents of the London Missionary Society.

On Aneityum, for years past, the whole population has been under Christian instruction. War, murder, cannibalism, the strangulation of widows, and infanticide: all the cruelties and all the abominations of heathenism have passed away. Peace and quietness are everywhere enjoyed; life and property are as secure as in any part of Christendom. It is little more than thirty years since the first ship was seen on the shores of Aneityum. The natives thought it was a *natmas* or god. A white man was put on shore and left; for what cause is unknown. He was carefully scrutinized, then killed, cooked, and eaten. When the first vessel came to anchor, after grave debate on the part of the natives as to what was to be done, a party of the most courageous spirits set off to the vessel in a canoe, bearing as an offering cocoa nuts, bananas, and taro. As they approached the vessel, they saw the men on board smoking tobacco; it was a practice utterly

unknown to them, "See, see," they said to one another, "these are the *natmasses* of the sun. they are all eating fire!" Now, however, Christianity and civilization are advancing as rapidly on this island, in proportion to the length of time they have been introduced, as they are doing in any of the Christianized islands of the Pacific. The sabbath is a day of unbroken religious rest. Family worship night and morning is universal. We have about sixty schools, taught by native teachers, at which the whole population are learning to read, and a large number to write and cypher. The whole of the New Testament, and several books of the Old, are now printed and in the hands of the natives. We have about 400 church members on the island; each missionary has a session, consisting of a good staff of elders and deacons. At the half-yearly communion at Mr. Geddie's station, five weeks ago, there were present three missionaries, twenty-five elders and deacons, about 300 communicants, and a congregation of about 800. At the communion at my station, a month before that, I admitted forty-four new members. None, however, had been admitted for a twelve-month before. On our return, Mr. Copeland had a class of candidates, containing upwards of fifty, meeting weekly for instruction. Of these the session were unanimous in admitting forty-four. The rest were detained for further instruction, and a longer trial of character. The attendance upon both churches and schools is remarkably good; better in proportion to the population than I have ever seen it.—The prospects of the mission on this island are altogether very encouraging; the severe trials through which the natives have passed have not shaken their faith in the truth and power of the Gospel. They were never as a whole, more attentive to the means of grace than they are at present, or living apparently more under the influence of God's Word and Spirit.

In August last we received 2000 copies of the Aneityum New Testament, sent out by the British and Foreign Bible Society. We lost no time in letting the natives have access to the Testaments; upwards of a thousand copies are already in their hands; and they are reading them with great interest. As they are being paid for, not by individuals, each one for himself, but by contributions from the entire community, we have done with the Testaments as we have done with all our other books—we have distributed them by merit: we have given them to the best readers first, and only to those who can read tolerably well; we make them prizes to be contended for, but prizes which every one may obtain.

The natives have as yet no money, but they give willingly of what they have.—