

Missions. I need not fill my sheet with details about the missionary work on this island. I am sure your heart unites with ours in thankfulness to God, that he has inclined these poor islanders to receive his word. We hope that not a few have believed and embraced the gospel, into the salvation of their souls; whilst its indirect influence has humanized and improved society at large.

The gospel has been an unspeakably precious boon to the poor Aneiteumese. It is difficult for persons living in a christian land to conceive the state of degradation and misery in which it found them.

The crimes of heathenism must be witnessed to be known. After all that has been written about the heathen truth has not, and I think scarcely can be fully told. I never saw the effects of the fall in all its unmitigated horrors, until I landed on this island.

Many of the natives are I believe truly thankful to God for the gospel, and feel grateful to the Church by whose instrumentality it has been sent to them. They cannot look back on the dark and awful abyss of heathenism from which they have been rescued, without feelings of thankfulness for the means of their deliverance. Not a few give hopeful evidence that they value the "pearl of great price" which they have found, and that they would not part with it for any earthly consideration.

I think I may say that I never have repented and never will regret my devotion to the missionary work. If I feel uncomfortable at any time, this feeling arises from a consciousness of my utter unworthiness and unfitnes for it. I love the work in which I am engaged, and while health is spared to me I shall never relinquish it.

The greatest disadvantage we have to contend with here is climate. For reasons not yet understood these islands are unhealthy. Fevers, remittent and intermittent, are common on them, and even the natives do not escape. Were the climate more salubrious it would be agreeable. After years of observation I find the highest range of the Thermometer to be  $98^{\circ}$ , the lowest range  $58^{\circ}$ , and the mean range  $80^{\circ}$ . We require to be cautious and attend to the laws of health, otherwise we could not remain long on these islands. But if the climate is unhealthy this has been advantageous to the cause. It was sickness I believe that caused the breaking up of the Roman

Catholic Mission on this island, for those engaged in it suffered almost constantly from fever and ague; and if our little island were more healthy it is almost certain that it would soon be overrun with a class of white men, whose presence would be injurious to religion and morality. All things considered I feel thankful that we have such a climate to labour in.

I beg to thank you for the interest you have taken in raising a marine fund. You will see by the paper sent by Mr Inglis and myself to the "Board of Foreign Missions," that more help is wanted in this department. We require a small vessel to enable us to keep up frequent and safe communication with the neighbouring island. I hope this object will meet with the approbation of the "Board" and the support of the friends of the cause.

It would give me much pleasure to hear from you. Mrs Geddie and the children are well. She unites with me in affectionate remembrance to Mrs Baxter, yourself and family.

I remain,  
ever yours, &c.,  
JOHN GEDDIE.

Rev J. Baxter.

#### EXTRACTS FROM JOURNAL OF REV. J. GEDDIE.

(Continued.)

Jan. 1st, 1855.—By the goodness of God we have been brought to the commencement of another year. In reviewing the past what cause for thankfulness in relation to our work. Our trials have been few and our mercies great. The sacred cause in which we labour has made some progress and Satan's kingdom trembles. Some hopeful deaths have occurred during the past year.

I gave all my scholars new books this morning. We have recently printed a new school book, which I have been keeping in reserve for this occasion. I also presented my teachers and most advanced scholars with a small *Almanack* for 1855 in addition, which has been compiled to assist the natives in computing time. I need not say that these poor natives were delighted with their books.

Jan. 3rd.—Visited Itug to-day and settled *Nahran-hat-aiheug* and wife as teachers. The settlement is in the interior, about six miles from the sea. The way to it leads through a dense forest, with scarcely the vestige of a foot-path.