

the conclusion that Mr Archibald is not possessed of that natural decision of character and intense devotedness to Missionary Labor which are so necessary for the patient endurance of those hardships and privations which a new and solitary station in a heathen country necessarily involves.

We have much pleasure in referring our readers to the following letter from Mr Waddell. His deep interest in the welfare of the Mission, and still more, his intimate acquaintance with all the correspondence, public and private, received from our Missionaries, entitle his opinion in this matter, to be regarded as of the very highest authority.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—

Having had opportunity, since I left home, of hearing the views of several of the readers of our Register, upon the subject of Mr Geddie's letter in the last No., and finding, among Mr Archibald's personal friends particularly, considerable uneasiness expressed at the manner in which Mr Geddie alludes to his departure from the Mission, it has occurred to me that it would be well to recall to the notice of the Church, the information which we have received from Mr Archibald himself upon that subject; as well as to revert to the peculiar circumstances in which Mr Geddie has written what he has done about it.

Under date of August 27th 1849, Mr Archibald thus writes:

"My principle object in addressing you at present, is to inform you that I deem it my duty to resign my connexion with the mission. I have not come to this conclusion without serious and calm deliberation. I have felt it to be a solemn question to decide whether I should remain or leave. I will lay before you the reasons which have weighed on my mind, and caused me to come to this conclusion, and leave you to decide as to whether I am doing right or wrong.

In the severe affliction with which the Almighty in his gracious and all-wise providence has been pleased to visit me, I have been led to reflect much on the state of my own soul, and the solemnity of the work in which I have engaged; and I have

my fears that I have, without duly considering the spirituality and solemnity of the missionary work, entered into it, and am as one unsent. Though I have some comfort in looking to Christ as my Saviour, I cannot, considering my unworthiness and unfitness, comfortably continue in the missionary work, which I now see requires the experience and piety of the matured Christian. My duty therefore appears plainly to be, to no longer absorb the funds of the Society, but to retire from the work, and make way for another laborer. There is considerable to do just now with the printing press; and as Mr Geddie requests my assistance, I shall remain a few months longer.

My resignation, it appears to me, should not be a cause of regret to any one who reflects, that the salary of a European teacher must necessarily be nearly as much as that of an ordained minister, whilst the duties of his station are so comparatively limited, and while native teachers can be supported at so small a rate. The Salary required for a European teacher would support about thirteen Samoan or Rarotongan teachers.

On the 2d of January he says:

"I presume that the Communication which I sent to the Board will have reached you before the receipt of this. And I need but briefly refer to anything which it contains.

Written as it was under a depressed state both of body and mind, brought on by the natural tendency of the disease under which I suffered, it scarcely contains my more calm and deliberate views. I think I erred in supposing that it was my duty to dissolve my connection with the Mission. I have now resolved to remain as long as it is the pleasure of the Board to retain me, or at least until as many ordained labourers can be obtained as will absorb the funds of the Mission.

Again on 4th October, 1850, he writes:

We have made arrangements to remain here till the first of May. After that time, I beg to request the Board of missions through you to make arrangements to dispense with my services. My reasons you have no doubt ere this received. I resign under the conviction that it is the path of duty. I understand that it is the intention of the church to support but two laborers in the foreign field, and I think that the interests of the mission will be better sustained if there be two ordained