

contrast to all this which is presented by the teaching of our Lord and his apostles!

Our Foreign Missions.

LETTER FROM REV. JOHN INGLIS

The following letter is copied from the *Reformed Presbyterian Magazine*. It gives an interesting account of the arrival of Mr. Inglis on Aneiteum:—

ANEITEUM, NEW HEBRIDES,
July 8, 1863.

MY DEAR SIR,—Last month I wrote you from New Caledonia. On Saturday last I wrote you a brief note by the *John Williams* via Sydney. This letter I hope to send by the *Berengaria*, via China. We reached Aneiteum all safe and well on Friday last, the third inst., after a fine run of three days from New Caledonia, where we had been detained for twenty-five days. We found the members of the mission all well, except Mrs. Geddie, who had a severe illness in November last, and who has not yet recovered her wonted health and strength, altho' greatly better. The state of the mission on this island at present appears to be very encouraging; the public health is good, provisions are plentiful, the attendance on worship is greater than it has almost ever been. The prospects on the other islands are also encouraging. This week two teachers from this island are being sent to Erromanga, and two to Wakus, on the west of Tanna; thus these two islands are again opened up. Two of our teachers in Futuna are home at present on a visit; they brought with them a number of *natimases*, or objects of worship; and they tell us that several leading men have cut off their long hair, which marks a considerable advance in the profession of Christianity. The *John Williams* has brought us the Rarotonga teachers and their wives for Futuna and Aniwa.

Our arrival here had nearly taken our brethren by surprise. They were not expecting us till the return of the *John Williams* from Sydney three months hence; but a vessel that sailed from Sydney five days after us, had called in here about a week before our arrival, and brought the intelligence that from the time of our sailing we might be expected daily. We found the *John Williams* here on her way from the eastern group to the Loyalty Islands and Sydney. Our arrival was very opportune, not only as we had the gratification of seeing several of our old and valued friends, but also as we had

brought a quantity of printing paper, goods, letters, &c., from Sydney, for the brethren on the Loyalty Islands, and got them sent forward without the slightest delay. The *John Williams* sailed hence on Saturday.

Our reception was most cordial, both by the members of the mission and the natives. We received quite an ovation. Captain Williams and Mr. Geddie met us at the entrance of the harbour. Every mast in the *John Williams* was covered with flags, as if it had been the Queen's birthday. When we reached the shore, what we may call the Aneiteum loyal volunteer rifle corps were drawn up, with the principal chief at their head, and fired off a grand salute. The British flag and the flags of the different chiefs were all flying in front of the mission premises. A flag was extended over the gateway, with the inscription in large letters, WELCOME HOME. The orphan and other children attending Mrs. Johnston's school, to the number of fifty or sixty, were drawn up on each side of the gate, and as we passed them, they sang the Aneiteum version of the hymn, "There is a happy land, far, far away." This to my mind was the most touching and affecting part of the whole arrangements. On our side of the island there was an equal but somewhat different display. As we came round in our boat yesterday, we were met at the reef, near the landing place, by a crowd of natives, headed by the principal chiefs, bearing a native palanquin decorated with flags; on this we were carried shoulder high from the boat to the garden gate, the whole procession joining in a song, in the same way as they inaugurate their highest chiefs; and every one must shake hands with us, from the oldest to the youngest. The attendance at the prayer meeting this afternoon was equal to that of a Sabbath. The church was quite full.—Mr. Copeland conducted the devotional services, and married two couples; William gave a short address, and I did the same. It was an interesting meeting; we felt both sad and joyful; we missed many old familiar faces that had gone the way of all flesh; still there is so much that is bright and cheering in the prospect of the mission, that we felt strongly prompted to thank God and take courage. There was an excellent audience at Mr. Geddie's station on Sabbath. He and Mr. Copeland preached, and I gave a brief address at the close, and afterwards conducted the English service. Mr. Copeland, I am happy to say, speaks the Aneiteum language with great fluency, great correctness, and great energy. In his mode of conducting the mission, he has adhered closely to my plans, so that the natives have been disturbed by no changes, but have felt that we are entirely one and the same. Mr. Geddie and he have co-operated with great cordiality. Seldom, I believe, have a mis-