

ance of Mr Inglis. The desire to learn manifested by the natives, is all that we could expect. We have also several schools at out-stations, taught by natives of this island, and had we a large body of Teachers, we could find employment for them all.

We have almost completed a large church. It will accommodate 500 persons. The building of it occupied four months. I commenced the house with many fears that the natives would become faint hearted in the work, but they worked with much spirit to the end. It is a wattled and plastered building, and looks very well.

At the opening of our church, the building was crowded to excess, and many could not gain admittance. I took advantage of the occasion to invite the chiefs and leading men from all parts of the island to come together as followers of the same Lord, and I am glad to say the invitation was responded to beyond my expectation. Many met on the occasion, who last met on the battle field. All former animosities were cast into oblivion, and peace now reigns on the island. The whole occasion was one of great interest, and good I think has been the result. My esteemed brother Mr Inglis, was with me at the time.

I have lately commenced a new house. It is a stone building, and will, I hope, continue the property of the Mission for generations. I have purchased the stone from the Sandal wood establishment, at this place, for the sum of £5, and I have given an order for this sum on Dr. Ross, to be paid out of the amount placed at his disposal for the contingencies of this Mission. I have also sent to New Zealand for doors, windows, flooring and nails, which articles, all of the plainest kind will cost about £40 sterling.

The *John Williams* has brought my supplies. She called expressly to deliver them, on her way from Samoa to Sydney. Their arrival has been a very providential relief, for we had been reduced to great straits.

I have just received a letter from the Secretary of the Samoan Mission. I would not feel at liberty to enclose it to you in ordinary circumstances, but perhaps in the present state of the mission it would be improper to retain it.

I Remain, Dear Brethren,
JOHN GEDDIE.

Upolu, Dec. 10, 1853.

The Rev. J. Geddie,

My Dear Brother

I have just been reminded that I have not forwarded to you a minute, passed by this mission at our last general meeting, when I was Secretary pro tem. It was the following:

“That the Secretary write to the Rev. John Geddie, assuring him of our sympathy with him in his arduous labors and numerous trials, and also in his joy in having received an assurance of the great Master’s approval of his services in conferring on him the honor of forming the first Christian Church on the New Hebrides.”

Were I to add any remarks of my own to the above, I should only in substance repeat the few remarks I have already made in my private letter. I may only remark, however, that all the Brethren were greatly rejoiced by the report of our deputation on their return. The Lord has indeed done great things for you whereof we are glad.

Our prayers ascend for you and the work, that by the blessing of the Lord you may be privileged to report continued and increased prosperity, new converts added to the Church, and the believers edified and built up in their most holy faith.

I need not enlarge at the present time, as you will have personal intercourse with the Brethren, Murray of our own group, and Gill from the Harvey Islands.

I remain,

Yours very Truly,
HENRY NISBET.

LETTER FROM MRS. GEDDIE,

Ancileum, Dec. 25, 1853.

My Dear Sisters,

As we will soon be looking for the *John Williams*, and will not have time after she arrives to write letters, as her visit will be very short, I sit down to write you while I have time.

Since the last time I wrote, we have been all in the enjoyment of good health. The weather is very warm now; we are suffering with heat, while you are shivering with cold. This is the commencement of the rainy season. We have had ten days of very wet weather, but it is now clear and appears a little settled.