

is, it is pre-eminently so, and appears very conspicuously to be "the doing of the Lord." When the "John Williams" last visited the island something less than three years ago a very slight impression had been made. Some four or five individuals had begun to discover signs of awakening interest, some indications that the truth was beginning to take hold of their hearts, but the people as a body were scarcely a single remove from heathenism of the lowest grade. They were living in all the cruel, degrading, and abominable rites and customs of paganism, "hateful and hating one another," "without God and without hope." Now in the neighborhood of all the mission stations, four in number, there are a goodly number who have abandoned heathenism, profess themselves christians, wear such clothing as they can procure, and steadily attend upon the means of grace and instruction. At Aniligauhat the principal station, the Sabbath congregation average 100. The average attendance at the daily schools is about 20. All are striving with the utmost eagerness to learn to read. About half of those who attend the schools can read tolerably, and a considerable number quite fluently. About 60 have enrolled themselves as members of the Friday meeting. These are all pledged to external conformity to all the requirements of christianity. A church has been formed, consisting of 13 members, 6 males and 7 females. These were baptized on the forenoon of the sabbath we were privileged to spend at the island. In the afternoon they were constituted a christian church, and the ordinance of the Lord's Supper was administered to them. It was an occasion of thrilling interest. A number of the crew of the "John Williams" with Capt. Morgan, and our Samoans and Raratongans, and one Savage Islander, united with us. It was not only the first time that the sacred ordinance had been administered to natives of Aneiteum, but to the natives of Western Polynesia. Aneiteum and its little church, and its faithful missionary, have thus the honour of leading the way, in as far as the observance of christian ordinances is concerned, among these splendid and populous islands and groups. Viewed in this light the events of that Sabbath appear invested with the deepest interest and importance; and in the future history of this great division of the Polynesian family, the transactions of Sabbath the 16th of May, 1852, will occupy a memorable place and be re-

garded with imperishable interest.

At Aniligauhat the christian party form a decided majority as they do also at Unreich and Ipeki. Ipeki is next in importance to Aniligauhat. It is the place at which the first teachers were landed in 1841. The state of things at it, is nearly as encouraging as at the principal station—indeed it is quite so when the circumstances of the two stations are taken into account. The congregations are as large as at the other station, and the schools are also nearly, if not quite as large. The attendance at the schools is less regular, however, and the progress not so rapid. Among the christian party there is a complete change as regards external appearance. Painting their bodies, wearing long hair, and other marks of heathenism are now rarely seen. All have some articles of clothing, and most are decently clothed. They were *most* anxious to learn to read, but a few have also learned to write tolerably, and many are learning. Mr. and Mrs. Geddie have about 18 boys and girls, who are boarders in their family. These can read and write well. Their progress in reading and writing is somewhat retarded, owing to the scarcity of books. All they have in their hands are a spelling book, a doctrinal catechism, 24 pages of Scripture extracts, and a few hymns. More books are urgently needed, and will be supplied as soon as practicable. The few they have are valued beyond all price. A case was mentioned that occurred lately, strikingly illustrative of this. A family had their house, with all their little property, burned. The loss of the house and property appeared to be nothing thought of. The only thing that seemed to occasion regret was that their *books* were destroyed.

Mr. Geddie is of opinion that the happy change now so extensively in progress, is not to be traced *immediately* to his own labors and those of the Samoan and Raratongan teachers, but to the influence, example and efforts of a few of the natives themselves. Of these there are six, who go out as evangelists, and instruct and persuade their fellow countrymen to be reconciled to God. These have clear views of the plan of salvation; they have warm hearts; they are examples of what they teach, and they give themselves with great zeal to the work of seeking the salvation of their countrymen. Of these Waihu is the principal, and has been most extensively useful. He was a distinguished