

for granted by them. If I have a preference in point of location, I have not given expression to it, unless it may have been in my first communication to the Board of Foreign Missions, and under circumstances that warranted it, or called it forth.

I think it but due to myself to say this much on a point on which I would much rather have been silent; for should I be located on the island mentioned, very likely many would be ready to say, and some to believe that the choice was determined by myself previous to leaving Nova Scotia.

From the list of acknowledgements it will be seen that I have been the recipient of many benefactions. And first, in this connection, allow me to say that the liberality of a *systematic giver* to the cause of the Lord, in Nine Mile River, is worthy of all imitation. Callous would my heart be did I fail to appreciate the Christian sympathy and unbounded generosity of kind friends in Picton, and New Glasgow. My brother missionaries who preceded me in going to this last mentioned handsome town (for "handsome is that handsome does") have the same to remark of this fair town—New Glasgow. I did not proceed thither expecting, and for the very reason just referred to, to receive anything except a repetition of previous hospitality and friendship; but I was pleased to find there a practical comment on the words—"The liberal soul deviseth liberal things"; and, "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth." Much in addition—very much—was received in other ways, useful and valuable. And here I should not neglect to say that our cause has received much substantial aid from kind friends in connection with St. Matthew's Church Halifax. Meetings with Sabbath School children were pleasing indeed, if not profitable. But I leave my youthful friends, at this time, to give a parting tribute of regard to older persons who, like shadows are passing away. I wonder why we hear so much about the Pilgrim Fathers, and so little about the Pilgrim mothers of Plymouth Rock. Why not talk more about our foremothers and less about our forefathers? Who loves not Eunice, yes, and good old Lois, too? My heart warms to them both. I shall not soon

forget the friendly grasp—with *both hands*—of some dear old women. Though sometimes I felt humbled, still, I value it for what I believe was underlying all, viz., attachment to Christ and his cause.

And now, friends and followers of the Lamb, may the good Lord bless you all with rich blessings; "both young men and maidens; old men and children." Be humble, prayerful, and think on the words of the Lord Jesus: "Occupy till I come."

Yours in the Lord's service,

JAMES D. GORDON.

Halifax, N. S., Nov. 4th, 1863.

## Our Foreign Missions.

### LETTER FROM REV. J. GEDDIE.

ANEITEUM, June 17th, 1863.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—

I write these lines to be in readiness for the *John Williams*, which will give us a passing call this month on her way from the Eastern Islands to Sydney. You are aware that Mrs. Geddie had a serious attack of illness towards the close of the last year; and has not been very robust since; the other members of the mission I am glad to say are well. God's mercies to us have been neither few nor small, and I am sure you will unite with us in thankfulness to him for them all.

#### THE SEASON AND CROPS.

Our hot season has passed by, and it has been the most agreeable that we have seen, during our residence on the island. The rains have been less than usual, and there has been nothing in the shape of a hurricane. The island is fast recovering from the desolation caused by the hurricanes of the two preceeding years. Food is abundant and the natives begin to forget their late privations. There is every appearance of a large crop of bread fruit and other useful fruits in a month or two, and this is the more remarkable, as it is not the season for them. The oldest inhabitants with whom I have conversed never remember of such crops at this season of the year. The natives regard it as a direct interposition of divine goodness.