

Islands is Kammehameha III. His Majesty has been pleased to furnish me with a letter addressed to the chief of chiefs of any island where we may settle. I intend to forward a copy of it to Mr. Kier and you will perhaps see it. I am indebted likewise to General Miller, British Consul General for the Islands of the Pacific, to the Hon. R. C. Wyllie, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and many others for marked attention and kindness.

During my residence at the Sandwich Islands I had some opportunity of judging what the gospel has done for the people there. It has indeed wrought a change which no other agency could ever have effected. A few years ago they were sunk in a base and cruel idolatry. I visited some of their ancient Hawios, and saw human skulls and fragments of bones, the relics of sacrifices offered to their gods.

Formerly they were sunk in ignorance, inconceivable, now the majority of the people can read and write, and have the word of God printed in their own tongue. Formerly, theft and robbery were so common, that the people were called a nation of thieves, and no article, however concealed, was safe, and now violation of the eighth commandment is not more common than in more civilized countries. Formerly licentiousness abounded to such an extent that the whole of the Islands presented nothing but a dead sea of pollution; now though scenes often occur most offensive to a chaste mind, yet this odious sin is fast hastening into concealment.

But I would not wish you to over-rate the state of a people who are just emerging from a state of barbarism. It is scarcely possible for those who live in a Christian land to form a conception of the native convert sufficiently humble. You may find much grace in the heart, but usually amidst much corruption. A person converted from the pollutions of heathenism is a very different character from the converted man who has been educated from his youth, in a respect for morality and religion. The churches in the apostolic days exhibited, after the departure of the Apostles, the influence of old habits and prejudices, and every church partakes more or less of the previous character of its converts.

The conversation and character of native converts too often comes far short of the pure standard laid down in God's word. Nevertheless, there have been bright examples of piety among this people.

The Sandwich Islanders have not advanced as rapidly in civilization as might have been expected, considering their privileges. Many of their houses, I am informed, are not much in advance of what they were when the missionaries went among them here. Their dress is still very scant, though they are in general decently attired on the Sabbath day, yet many of them in other days

of the week wear nothing but a common shirt, and I have seen many of them with nothing but the maro, that is a narrow strip of cotton around the waist. This, however, is common only among the old, who have not been accustomed to clothing, and the rising generation will evidently be far in advance of their progenitors in this respect.

After a delay of about seven weeks in the Sandwich Islands, I engaged a passage in the whale ship Crescent, for the Navigators. This letter is written on board of her. This will account for the imperfections in the writing, and a heavy lurch of the ship has just upset my bottle of ink, and made the blot on this page. I can say nothing about my future procedure until I reach the Navigators. I may mention, however, that New Caledonia is already occupied by Roman Catholic missionaries. By the last accounts there were a bishop, two priests, and two monks settled there, and a vessel lately touched at the Navigators Islands, on her way thither with a reinforcement of more priests; and it is supposed that there is an intention to colonize it with French emigrants.

I exceedingly regret these circumstances, as it was in many respects an inviting field of labor. Thus, while a part of our church have been quarrelling whether they should send the gospel, and where, an enemy has been silently taking possession of the ground. It is a dangerous thing to tamper with and oppose the cause of Christ, and eternity alone will reveal the consequence; but if we are shut out in one quarter, there is a voice crying out in many of those islands: "Come over and help us."

Of my companion, Mr. Archibald, I can say but little, as yet. He is a young man and untried. I should have preferred one of more years and experience. I hope the church at home will not relax its efforts until another minister is sent into the field. My greatest earthly desire, I believe, would be accomplished, had I another minister to divide with me the responsibility of our mission, especially when I know that there are very many at home watching and praying for my success, while there are a few as eagerly watching for any false step.

I have in this letter opened my mind to you, as I know your interest in my own welfare, and that of the mission, but I must come to a close. Remember me to Mrs. McCallum, Elizabeth, and the rest of the family, also to your brother Neil and family, David Lawson, John Miller, Sr.

Sincerely and ever yours,
JOHN GEDDIE.

It may not be ours to utter convincing arguments, but it may be ours to live holy lives. It may not be ours to be subtle and learned and logical; but it may be ours to be noble and sweet and pure.