

have agreed to appropriate a part of it for the building of a mission store house. This is very much wanted at the harbor station here, as supplies for all the islands are usually landed here, until they can be sent to their respective destinations. The natives are now busy collecting the materials and we pay them in food. The amount that we may expend will not probably exceed £30, and as the house is intended for the benefit of the mission at large we ought to bear half the expense.

I beg to thank the Board of Missions for the arrangements that have been made at last meeting of Synod about my dear children. They are in every respect satisfactory to me. As my eldest daughter Charlotte is not now entitled to receive any thing from you, would you still give her £10 sterling yearly of my salary.

Among the contributions made by the natives last year and this year was a little money. Mr Copeland and I have divided this and wish the amount to be paid to our respective accounts. The amount received by me was £2 1s 6d for last year, and £3 5s 0d for this year. You would oblige me by charging the above sums against me.

In the event of another missionary coming he need not bring furniture or medicines as Mrs Johnston can supply these things, and it would be an advantage to her to sell them as they are not now needed by her,

I suppose Mrs Johnston writes to you occasionally. She has been here since April. She is a very excellent woman and endeavors to make herself useful in helping to teach the natives. She would I think go home if there was any good opportunity. But she is very delicate and it would scarcely do for her to travel alone. She will always be welcome to such a home as we can give her.

I trust that our application for a new vessel will be granted. Since my letter about her was written we have been conversing with a gentleman engaged in the shipping trade in Australia and he thinks that a suitable vessel could be purchased there, very fine vessels are built there, and the wood is said to be more durable than the best English oak. Mr Murray has consented to make every enquiry about the quality, price &c. of a suitable vessel and to send a letter of information to you and our friends in Scotland on the subject. If you decide in favor of a vessel and approve of her being built in Australia you might communicate directly with Mr Murray on the subject. His deep interest in the evangelization of these islands makes him willing to do anything that he can for the cause. You must consult with our friends in Scotland and do what you think will be for the best. If a vessel were procured in Sydney it would almost be necessary to have a captain and mate from home as we could scarcely depend on getting suitable men in these colonies. May God direct in this and all other matters.

Ever Yours, &c.

J. GEDDIE.

LETTERS FROM TANA.

Letters have been received from Mr Matheson up till the 23rd of Novr. On the 21st of that month Mrs M. gave birth to a daughter. Both mother and daughter were doing well. We subjoin the most important parts of Mr Matheson's letters, so far as they relate to his work.

TANA, Sept. 3rd, 1861

REV AND DEAR SIR,—

Since my last I am happy to say, that we have completed our church, and had it solemnly dedicated to the service of God on the first Sabbath day of August. The church is capable of comfortably accomodating from 150 to 200 persons. When we speak of churches on Tana you must not consider, that they are entitled to that appellation from their external grandeur, but simply from the fact, that they are buildings set apart for the service of God. You will be pleased to learn that the church is free of debt, all the material for the building, and the workmanship being paid with mission goods, with the exception of some knives and hatchets to the amount of thirty-five shillings and eightpence.

We had a visit from two of H. B. M. steam ships of war in the early part of last month, which was very providential. Their visit seems to have produced a beneficial effect upon the mind of our natives for the time being, and which may probably prove lasting, provided they hear, that the Erromangans have been duly punished for the massacre of Mr and Mrs Gordon. It is more than likely that we