

the island, and agreeably surprised to find the natives contrast so favorably with those of other islands. The Capt. is the warm friend of missions, and of every thing that tends to promote the religious and moral improvement of the natives. Our intercourse with all parties on board the ship, has been of the most agreeable and profitable kind; and the "Herald's" visit to Aneiteum will be long remembered by the mission families, and the natives. We are to have a visit from H. M. Steamer "Torch," in about two months, to complete the survey commenced by the "Herald." The natives are now busily engaged cutting wood for the steamer, and Capt. Denham has engaged to pay them in clothing, for 100 cord. The natives are delighted at the prospect of getting such a return for their labor.

A sandal wood vessel has brought a report to this island, that gold has been discovered in New Caledonia, and that the French have taken possession of the island. The report, I fear, is too true. The French flag has been hoisted at Balade, and a small fort is in course of erection at that place. This affair will probably lead to some correspondence between Britain and France, as our own government appear to have had some idea of taking possession of New Caledonia for a penal settlement.

Dear Brother, you will learn from the communication which I send along with this, that a great work has been done in Aneiteum, though there is still awful ignorance, superstition, and depravity to contend with. Give all the praise to God, none of it belongs to man. We have been unprofitable stewards here; and I lament that we have done so little. Had many other missionaries been here, a vastly greater work would have been done. God has wrought for us here, and the manner in which he seemed to have sanctioned the unworthy efforts that have been made in his cause, often encourages me to hope that our mission has the approval of heaven, and ought to stimulate friends at home, to work with more energy and largeness of heart in the missionary cause.

Yours, very sincerely,

JOHN GEDDIE.

Rev. Jas. Bayne.

I inclose an account of this island, which I have cut out of the Sydney Missionary Herald, and which may interest you.

J. G.

Extracts from private letters, containing interesting items of a domestic nature, have been forwarded for publication. These, and any similar intelligence which friends may please to forward, will appear hereafter.—Ed.

Aneiteum, New Hebrides,
Pacific Ocean, Oct. 1st, 1853.

MY DEAR BROTHER,—

Your welcome letters of Nov., 1851, and April, 1852, came to hand about three months ago; also, six cases from Nova-Scotia, containing articles for the mission. Your letters, and the documents accompanying them, were a treasure, as they contain so much information of the kind that must always be grateful to a Missionary. How it cheered us to learn that our beloved Zion prospers; and that, while she is lengthening her cords, even to the uttermost ends of the earth, she is strengthening her stakes at home.

The mission families have, by the goodness of God, been favored with a more than usual measure of health during the past year. Our beloved associates, Mr and Mrs Inglis, have entirely escaped the diseases peculiar to these islands; and they are of opinion, that by care, at the most critical seasons of the year, a tolerable amount of health may be enjoyed, even by foreigners. My hope, and prayer is, that they may long be preserved from sickness; and, that their experience may do something to redeem the character of these islands from their reputed unhealthiness. Mrs Geddie suffers a little from the debilitating effects of the climate, and her constant duties. The labors of a Christian female on these islands are of the most self-denying and arduous kind, and such as ladies at home can scarcely conceive. It is chiefly through the instrumentality of the missionaries' wife, that those of her own sex are to be raised from the depths of degradation and misery, and elevated to the position that God has assigned her. My own health is excellent; and I have been enabled to perform a more than usual amount of labor during the past year. Our dear children have all suffered from fever and ague during the unhealthy season, but they are well at present. In taking a review of God's dealings with us, we feel constrained to praise him for his goodness to us.

The Teachers and their families have