

"We continue to distribute copies of the Scriptures among our fellow-countrymen and others, whether settled or sailing among these islands, as our opportunities and means of doing so enable us. Some time ago a vessel called at the harbour, having some Spanish seamen on board. As soon as they learned that some other seamen had obtained copies of the New Testament from Mr Geddie, they came on shore and applied to him for the Scriptures in their language. He had no Spanish Scriptures; but he had some Portuguese Testaments, one of which he gave to each of him, which they could understand, and with which they appeared much gratified. Men of all nations find their way into British merchant vessels, and your Society meets them with the word of God in their own tongue at almost every seaport throughout the world.

I enclose you an order for £30 12s. 6d. as a free contribution from the New Hebrides Auxilliary Society. The Europeans connected with this island have contributed very liberally; and a lady, the wife of the principal European settler on Erumanga, collected £10 of this sum among the white people connected with that island. The sum of 30s. was contributed by the natives, the first money ever contributed by the natives to this or any similar object. Money can scarcely yet be said to be a medium of exchange on this island. Eight or ten years ago, when the natives were all heathen, tobacco and beads were almost the only imports. But now a large proportion of the natives have given up the use of tobacco; and clothing, axes, knives and other useful articles, are eagerly sought after by almost all of them, as payment for produce or labor. In this way a broader and surer basis is laid for commerce, and a much more healthy stimulus is supplied for native industry; and money will certainly follow as a medium of exchange, in proportion as civilization advances.

"We supply all our books to the natives gratis. We do this chiefly on two grounds: in the first place to encourage education. We stipulate one condition only in the distribution of books, viz; that they shall be able to read one book before they obtain another. Twice a year, at the examination of our schools, every native has an opportunity of obtaining a new book, by showing us that

he can read his old ones. In the next place, they have so little of such things as cocoanut oil, and arrow root, that can be collected and turned into money, that we think it better, in the meantime, to supply them with books gratis, than to attempt what would to a great extent prove a failure. But our natives are neither lazy nor greedy. They contribute freely of their labour for Missionary purpose. For several years past, in the erection of mission premises, churches, schoolhouses, and in objects connected directly with religion and education, they have contributed in labor, counting it at only sixpence a day each, no less than from £500 to £600 a year: and surely a people who contribute so freely of their labor when they have nothing else to give, will not withhold their money when it shall come into their hands.

ORDINATION OF MR JOHNSTON, MISSIONARY TO THE SOUTH SEAS.

Wednesday the 17th day of August is a day not likely soon to be forgotten by the Christian people of Stewart's Island. On that day they beheld one of their own number set apart to the service of Christ as a missionary to the heathen. Long before the hour of meeting, carriages might be seen coming from all directions to the common centre. The countenance of every one indicated plainly that the object of attraction was neither the business of the world nor the pleasures of a holiday. It was some of the solemnities of the house of God. Repairing to that place we found the large edifice notwithstanding the pressure of hay-harvest, completely filled, there being some who had come a distance of more than forty miles.—Along with the Presbytery of Truro, we observed Mr Sedgewick of Musquodoboit and Mr McLean of Gays River, taking part in the ordination.

The Rev Dr Smith, the beloved pastor and worthy theological tutor of Mr Johnston, having been appointed to preach on this occasion, began the services with the usual devotions.

SERMON.

With the discrimination always attending his appearances, the learned Professor chose as his text, Psalm ii. 6, "Yet have I set my king upon my holy