

and adversity to the minutest detail, are under his all-wise governance.

"He gives—and when he takes away  
He takes but what he gave."

We are the Lord's, given up to Him, and pledged to be His forever. All that we possess is His also, for we received it from His hand. The fish of the sea; the mineral wealth digged out of the veins of the everlasting rock: our waving harvest-fields; our flocks and herds; our forests now tinged with autumnal gold,—all are God's. Had we ten thousand worlds would we not give them up to "Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his blood and hath made us kings and priests unto God even his Father?" Most gladly then shall we offer sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving to Him as He hath need.

Rich man, we cannot tell thee how much thou shouldst give: poor man, man of moderate means, we cannot direct you: We leave all as God has left it—to your own conscience as in His sight. The New Testament rule is to give according to your ability and to give with a *willing mind*.

Come then to the house of the Lord—the Church of Christ—and bring an offering with you, such as you may not be ashamed to present to the King of kings and Lord of lords. Let not the widow be ashamed of her mite: let not the rich man spare his thousands. The Lord hath need of all that we can cast into His treasury: is He not worthy of infinitely more than all!

### CAUSE OF MR. JOHNSTON'S DEATH.

We feel it due to all parties to publish the subjoined letter from Mr. Geddie.

ANEITEUM, March 14th, 1863.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—

There is only one subject on which I beg to address you at present. Your last Report of the Foreign Mission would seem to intimate that the death of Mr. Johnston was caused by the immoderate or injudicious use of *laudanum*. From all that I can learn about his illness I think this is a mistake. It is true that he took a dose of laudanum the night before his last sickness, slept after it, rose up next morning refreshed, was well and lively until noon of next day, when he was first affected with that stupor which re-

turned at intervals until he died. A space of 16 hours intervened between the time of taking the laudanum and the first symptoms of unnatural drowsiness. Laudanum is speedy in its effects and if a person survives 12 or 15 hours after an immoderate dose the chance is that he will recover. The symptoms as described by Mrs. Johnston would not correspond with those of a person poisoned by laudanum. The death of our dear brother must be traced to some other cause. Mr. Johnston seemed to enjoy good health here up to the time of his last illness. I mention this because an impression seems to prevail that he was very delicate. He was very different from Mr. Matheson who was far gone in consumption before he landed among us. I wish we had a few missionaries in all respects as well qualified as our departed brother for the work of evangelization. I will now close, hoping to write you more largely soon.

Ever yours, &c.,  
J. GEDDIE.

Rev. J. Bayne.

P. S.—I omitted in my last letters to mention that the church on Vate collected last year as a contribution to the mission 5s. 6d. in money, and 7 baskets of arrow-root, about 50 lbs. each.

Mrs. Johnston also writes to a similar purport. She also adds regarding the idea that he had been affected by the danger from which he had so narrowly escaped on the 1st. January:—

"His receiving injury from the shock, (Jan. 1.) is an idea that never once occurred to me, until I read it in the *Record* a few days ago. This appears to be founded on Mr. Paton's statement, "I never observed him smile afterward." When Mr. Paton read that to me from his letter, I remarked that I had not observed him more dull than usual, and neither did I.

"I was seldom more than an hour at a time away from Mr. Johnston during our stay on Tanna. And this I can say that I did not see any difference, either in body or mind after that until he took ill, from what he had always been,—I mean from what he had been during the excitement, for we were all dull, having so many sick and dying around us. We also slept little at night, not knowing but that at any moment an attack might be made upon us. If he was not so cheerful during these two weeks, I can say that I did not observe it.