

were attended with scarcely any visible effect. It was on the 29 May, 1848 that Mr. Geddie, after a residence of eight months on Samoa, was located on Aneiteum, and commenced those labours that have been so signally blessed of God.

ANEITEUM,

The field ultimately chosen, is a very beautiful island, glorious with lofty mountains and far-withdrawing valleys, all crowded with waving palm. It has the finest harbor in the New Hebrides. Its population, when Mr. Geddie landed, was about 4000; and the people were as degraded as any that could be found on the face of the earth. Rev. Mr. Powell, of the London Missionary Society, landed with Mr. Geddie, but he was speedily prostrated with fever, and had to leave the island.—For four long solitary years Mr. and Mrs. Geddie toiled on in perils and sickness, amidst foes crafty, cruel, lawless, shameless, and fearing neither God nor man. Their lives were often in imminent peril. The month of November, 1851, is regarded as the crisis of the Mission work on Aneiteum. It was then that an attempt was made to burn the Mission premises and the Mission family in them. The attempt failed and the disgrace of it tended largely to the final overthrow of heathenism.

On the 18th of May, 1852, the first Christian Church was constituted in the New Hebrides—the first in Western Polynesia. On that day Mr. Geddie administered the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper to thirteen native converts. Many were able to read; hundreds were attending school; crowds came to the sabbath services; all the leading chiefs were either christians or decidedly friendly.—Ever since that time the work has gone on prosperously. On the 1st July, 1852, Mr. Geddie was cheered by the arrival on the island of a valuable fellow laborer, Rev. JOHN INGLIS, of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Scotland. Heathenism, in its worst and most dangerous forms, had been encountered and overcome by our Missionaries before the arrival of Mr. INGLIS. Happily no danger to life or property was now to be apprehended. The

arrival of assistance at this juncture was found of great value. The people became eager for teaching and preaching, and one Missionary and his wife would have been overwhelmed with work.

With the present condition of Aneiteum our readers are familiar. The whole island is thoroughly christianized. Not a remnant of the old superstition remains. Numerous schools are open in all parts of the island, and these are attended by young and old together. The proportion of church members is quite as numerous as in any christian country. The Sabbath is strictly observed; and in every family the voice of praise and prayer is heard every morning and evening. This, with God's blessing, has been the result of that quiet landing of the Rev. John Geddie and his wife in the bay of Aneiteumat, in ANEITEUM.

OTHER ISLANDS AND MISSIONARIES.

Rev G. N. GORDON and his wife were stationed on Erromanga, and there after four years of toil, fell martyrs in the noblest of causes. But though they have fallen the cause is prospering. The seed sown by them is springing up, and will no doubt soon wave in an abundant harvest. On Tanna too our Church stationed the Rev. Mr. Matheson and his wife and the Rev. S. F. Johnston and his wife. Messrs. Matheson and Johnston fell at their post, not indeed by the hand of violence like their dear brother Gordon, but from disease aggravated by toil and exposure and peril.

Within the last eighteen years our Church has sent forth to the New Hebrides fifteen labourers including Missionaries and their wives; and previous to the present year we had occupied the islands of Aneiteum, Erromanga and Tanna. Of course we are unable to say what islands may be occupied by our Missionaries who have gone out in the *Dayspring*. The field is extensive and inviting; and labour bestowed on it is not thrown away.