

## Foreign Missions.

PRIVATE LETTERS, dated Aneiteum, Nov. 11th 1851, came to hand June 10th. The following extracts have been selected, as containing all that is of public interest for the Church. How very desirable that one of kindred spirit with our present Missionary, should repair to his assistance, now that the mass of Heathenism is being moved to its very base. Our refuge must be in him who is known to the Church in every age as *Jihovah Jireh*. When he gives the word, great shall be the company of them who publish it. Let the friends of the Mission now obey the command of the God of Missions. The harvest truly is great but the Laborers are few, *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers unto his harvest.*

"A vessel has just called here on her way to China, and I avail myself of the opportunity of sending a few lines by her to you. I sent a letter to the Board, dated in September last, which I hope you have received in safety. I have a heavy communication on hand at present, containing a full report of the Mission for the last year, together with fragments of my journal, but these I reserve to go by way of Sydney. Though the route by China is by far the most expeditious, yet my letters pass through so many strange hands before they are mailed, that they are sent at a venture. In my letter to the Board dated in September, I slightly alluded to the progress of the work and to exciting incidents which have befallen this mission, but these you will find more fully and satisfactorily stated in my forthcoming letter and journal.

In your last letter to me and also in a note which Mrs Geddie received from you a few days ago, I see that letters have been written which have never reached me. I have never received any letter communicating the wishes of the Synod in relation to Mr Archibald's ordination—nor have I received any letter of instructions from the Board of Missions, nor any list of enquiries—nor has the letter of Rev. Mr Keir come to hand. I fear that these letters were on board a small vessel captured by the natives of *Mare* last December, for I have since heard that there

was something for me on board of her.

You will rejoice to hear that the cause progresses at present. There is a movement in favor of Christianity all over the island. I am just now endeavoring to follow up and improve the awakening which has already taken place. We have not attained our present position without a severe struggle, nor am I so sanguine as to hope that our struggle is over. We have still to contend with the confederated opposition of the heathen party, and a small party of white men engaged in the sandal-wood trade. But God has hitherto shielded his cause and those engaged in it, in circumstances of danger and trial, and we feel an assurance that He will still aid us. The good work which has begun in this dark land must go on until it comes to a triumphant issue. A flame has been kindled in the heart of many a poor islander, which the waters of much opposition have not and cannot quench. The sun of righteousness has begun to arise on this benighted island, and though the clouds of adversity do sometimes seem to intercept his rays, yet his course is always onwards, and may we not cherish a hope that the day is not far distant when his life giving rays shall penetrate every district, every village, and every habitation in Aneiteum.

The delay of the *John Williams* has been a great disappointment to us. I am almost entirely out of printing and school materials. My boys have stopped writing for want of paper and pens, and I am at present gathering up all scraps of printing paper that I can find, in order to strike off elementary sheets for the use of the natives. Applications are coming in from all quarters for books and I cannot supply them."

"My letters to the Board of Missions will give you some idea of our labors, trials, and joys, in this dark land. We have been called on to suffer much, but we have also had much to encourage us. Our progress has never been remarkable, but it has always been onward and steady. I am happy to say that after a succession of severe struggles the cause of God is likely to live and triumph in this island. At present the whole island is in a state of commotion on the subject of Christianity. Even in the remotest districts it is the all