

I enclose for you a statement of the expenses of the "John Knox," from August 1859 to August 1860. You will observe that it is much less than it has been in previous years. This expenditure has been entirely met by a contribution from New Zealand, so that she has not cost the Church any thing last year. The great reduction in her expenditure has been caused by dispensing with the services of white men. Some of our natives are now good seamen, and we are more independent than we were. It is difficult here to get white men whom we would employ. Some member of the mission now goes in the vessel to take charge of her, but this is a serious tax on our time. She has made ten voyages this season, and every year she becomes more valuable and more indispensable to the mission. I hope she will be less expense to you than she has hitherto been.

I must express my thankfulness that Mr. and Mrs. Johnston have been sent to our help. They are a valuable addition to our mission band. But, if the mission prospers, we must have more missionaries from some quarter or other. God, in answer to all our prayers, is opening up this group of islands for the gospel, and we must not be slow to enter. I trust that you will be able soon to send us one or more missionaries. Passing higher considerations I would urge the plea for another missionary on the ground that it may not add much to your present expenditure. The "John Knox" has not cost you any thing for the past year, and I hope we will be able to keep her afloat without asking much help from you, and besides the natives of this island have begun to contribute for the support of the gospel and will continue to do so: now the amount saved to your funds in these ways will go far to meet the expenses of another missionary. The encouragement we have hitherto had on these islands ought to nerve the church to further exertion in the cause of Christ.

The supplies of clothing, &c., for natives, sent by Mr. Johnston, came safely to hand. We beg to thank the donors for this additional expression of their interest in our work. On this island we have more than twenty married teachers who are clothed with the free will offerings sent from home, and also many of the scholars who attend our schools.

My esteemed friend, Mr. Copeland, is well. He now preaches fluently in their language and ably supplies Mr. Inglis' place. His labours are much the same as our own.

I remain, Rev. and Dear Sir, very sincerely yours. &c..

JOHN GEDDIE.

Rev. J. Bayne, Secretary B. F. M. of P. C. N. S.

LETTER FROM MRS. MATHIESON TO HER MOTHER.

PORT RESOLUTION, TANA, July 23rd, 1860.

[Hopeful symptoms—The Great Evil Spirit—Presents—Home—Travelling—Death and burial—Dead'y revenge and war—Safety in danger—Longings for the rest and the joyful greetings of Heaven.]

* * * * *

It is the day of small things with us. The Tanese manifest little or no desire for the word of God. They wish to live and die as their fathers did: yet we are not without a little encouragement. Rapaku our chief—of whom I wrote in my last letter—accompanied us to Aneiteum. I hope the evidences of what the gospel has wrought there will encourage him to persevere. A few seem "almost persuaded to be Christians," but no one has courage to come forward and declare himself upon the Lord's side. They think our religion very good for old people, and those who are dying. The Tanese believe in the existence of a Great Evil Spirit whom they call "Rarapauamun," and say that he lives on the top of the highest hill in the island, which is in or near the centre, and can be distinctly seen from all parts. Cease not to pray that the light may arise and shine, that the people may no longer say "where is their God?" All is midnight darkness now, but the day cometh, let us watch and pray for it. Thank Mr. J. D. B. Fraser very kindly for his invaluable present. I could scarcely have selected a more useful stock of medicines. The other articles too I prize very highly. One box has been opened, as it was too large and heavy for our boat to carry. We hope to go home to-morrow. We soon become attached to one spot and love to call it