

with us on this occasion, will be borne all the more patiently when it is known that he will not be able to visit the Churches in Scotland, whose servant he is, for two months hence. Although he still holds as an open question, whether or not he shall visit Nova Scotia agreeably to invitation, we may still indulge the hope of seeing him face to face, and hearing from his lips what God hath wrought for the natives of Aneiteum and surrounding islands.

From the last report to his Synod we learn that he had a membership of 131. Before he left his station he had ordained fourteen deacons and the same number of elders. The schools then were thirty in number, and all in an efficient state. The Teachers' Institution, the object of which is to prepare missionary pioneers, contains fifty pupils. During Mr. Inglis' absence Mr. Copeland supplies with much success his various departments of missionary labour, so that the work is not staid.

The most gratifying feature in the more recent intelligence from Aneiteum is the highly commendable efforts which have been put forth by the natives to contribute of their substance to the support and extension of the mission. Two missionary meetings were held, one at each station, and collections were taken. At each station the number present must have been 1200. The whole amount collected was as follows:—money, £2 4s. sterling; cocoanut oil, 10 gals.; arrowroot, 5500 lbs., being over 1½ lbs. for every one of the population, young and old. At the same time native dresses for females (200) and a quantity of mats were collected for the neighbouring islands. The price of arrowroot in Sydney ranges from 3d. to 6d. per lb. Taking the medium rate, and thus leaving ample margin for conveyance to market and other necessary expense, we have in this one article a contribution of over £100 stg. Upon the whole it may be fairly questioned whether there be any of our congregations, the liberality of whose missionary contribution, in proportion to their adhering population, will reach a much higher average. Taking the census of 1851, which gives in Nova Scotia and Cape Breton a population of 51,047 to the two Churches now united, the same average, say £100 stg. to a population of 3500 would yield £1544 4s. stg., or 1930 5s. c'y, a very much larger sum than was in any year contributed for missionary purposes by both Churches in their separate state. This disproportion, it may be fairly supposed, would be greatly increased on the basis of the recent census, the religious statistics of which have not yet been published, but above all were we to take into account our adhering population in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Bermuda. Who, then, can dispute the propriety of Mr. Geddie's appeal for an additional missionary, founded on this first fruits of the Aneiteum Churches, to send the gospel to the heathen? He expresses confidence that this people, who have but newly emerged from the darkness and degradation of heathenism will continue their annual contribution. As the cocoanut plantations grow to maturity their produce will become very valuable, and the growth of arrowroot will soon be greatly extended. But as matters now stand the missionary contribution more than equals the salary of one missionary; and if all our Home Churches would do likewise they would provide ample funds to sustain twelve missionaries and all contingent expenses. In his last letter Mr. Geddie reports the baptism of 15 adults and a number of children, so that the membership of his Church would then amount to 194. His Sabbath day audience averages 500. Looking back on his twelve years labours, then, we cannot doubt that Christianity has exhibited quite as satisfactory fruits on Aneiteum as in the most prosperous of our congregations in Nova Scotia. It was said of ancient Rome, when her decline became painfully apparent and her fall imminent, that the blood of ancestral valour, rendered sluggish and lifeless by sensual indulgence, was renewed and quickened by the infusion of some foreign element from the extremities into the heart of the Empire. Should not the spiritual pulse of this United Church beat higher and with accelerated speed, when from the remote isles of Western Polynesia comes back upon us the healthful tide of new-born Christianity?

WORK ON ERROMANGA.

From the labours of our first missionary we now pass to those of Mr. Gordon. Erromanga, the scene of his labours, is an island embracing a much larger ter-