

Foreign Missions.

LATE INTELLIGENCE FROM ANEITEUM

Since our last, a long letter has been received from the Rev. Mr Geddie, dated 17th September last, giving an account of the progress of the mission to that date. We publish his communication in full. It will be seen that the Mission has been again tried with sickness, yet the work is making most encouraging progress. The length of time during which Mr Geddie received no communication from Nova Scotia, is as unaccountable to the Board of Foreign Missions, as it is to Mr Geddie. For the information of the Church we may mention that letters have been regularly sent, but their not reaching him, must be owing in some way, to the irregularity of the means of conveyance.—The Board have thought it necessary to publish Mr Geddie's remarks on Mr Archibald's leaving the mission, yet were it not for the enquiry abroad in the Church, we would have deemed it better that the matter were wrapped in silence. It is to be regretted that no explanations have been received from Mr Archibald himself. The Board have written, seeking such explanations, but it is doubtful whether their letter has been received, and as he had left the island, it is doubtful whether an answer will be received. Accompanying the letter was a copy of the book to which Mr Geddie alludes. It is a small pamphlet of 28 pages, containing a few passages of scripture translated into the Aneiteum language, and also a few hymns. We would call attention to Mr Geddie's remarks in regard to clothing for the natives.

Aneiteum, New Hebrides,

Sep. 17th, 1851.

DEAR BRETHREN—

I sent communications to you dated in December last, which I hope you have received. No favorable opportunity has since occurred of sending letters to you or I should not have been silent so long.—This letter goes by a vessel which has touched at this island on her way to China and as my notice has been short, I must confine myself to a single sheet.

LETTER RECEIVED.

I received a letter from the Rev. James Waddell, under date August 21st 1850.—It was refreshing to hear from you once more, after a silence of nearly two years. I read with delight the account which that letter gives of the prosperity of our beloved Zion, in Nova Scotia, and of a continued interest in the cause of missions.

SICKNESS IN THE MISSION.

Since I last wrote to you, there has been much affliction in the mission. All our native teachers and their wives have suffered severely from fever and ague.—Two of their number, a Rarotongan man, and a Samoan woman, died,—the former in March, and the latter in June. I was present with them in their dying moments and they departed this life in the hope of a blessed immortality beyond the grave. I had slight attacks of intermittent fever in the month of April, and also my daughter Lucretia. Mrs Geddie and our youngest child escaped.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

The history of this Mission for the last nine months, has been one of great trials, and I will also add, of great encouragements. The struggle between Heathenism and Christianity has begun on this island, and must go on until the latter is established on the ruins of the former.—The natives who have given up the old system, have been much persecuted by their heathen countrymen. The plantations of many have been destroyed, their property stolen, and in some instances, life has been endangered. These trials, I rejoice to say, have in most cases been endured with a forbearance and meekness, scarcely to be expected from a people just emerging from a state of barbarism.

PROSPECTS.

Our prospects at the present time are more cheering than at any former period since we landed on the island. After a night of toil it seems as if the dawn of a bright and happy day were not far distant. The whole population are in a state of excitement about the respective claims of the old and new systems, in so far as such a people are capable of being excited on such a subject, and many are coming over to the Lord's side. We have lately been joined by many of our enemies, who are