

the children of Scotland. Your teachers and friends will provide you with cards and collecting papers, and give you all necessary advice. There is but one direction which we give you further, and that is, to remember that though some of you may be not able to give much money, you can all give your prayers, and these will be more pleasing to God and more useful to the mission than great sums of silver and gold.

By order of the Board,
JAMES BAYNE, Sec.

*To the Rev James Bayne, Secretary to the
Board of Foreign Missions of Presby-
terian Church of Nova Scotia.*

ANEITRUM, NEW HEBRIDES,
June 20th, 1855.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—

We beg respectfully to call the attention of your Board as we are doing that of the Missionary Committee of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod in Scotland, to the following object:—

We are of opinion that our mission on this group, has advanced so far through the favour of Divine Providence, that in order to carry on the work to advantage, it would be necessary for us to have at our command a small schooner of ten or twelve tons burden. For such a vessel we have three objects in view—two immediate, and one prospective; to visit our teachers located, or to be located, in the adjoining islands; to facilitate friendly intercourse between influential natives on this island and on the islands around us; and in the event of missionaries being stationed on the neighbouring islands, to be able to hold regular intercourse with them.

In the first place we are anxious to have our teachers visited three or four times a year. They are but babes in knowledge, and babes in grace. They require to be instructed, guided, and encouraged, in their difficult and discouraging labours. If left entirely to themselves among a strange and heathen population, they are very apt to become discouraged, to sink down in dispondency, and to do nothing. But if regularly visited, they may effect much good in preparing the way for Missionaries. While we expect but very little from their direct teaching, we regard them as valuable pioneers to prepare the way for a more official agency. At present they cannot be visited but at great risks.

In the next place, we wish to promote a safe and friendly intercourse between this and the adjoining islands. Considerable good might be effected by influential natives from this island occasionally visiting the adjoining islands, and by influential natives from these islands visiting this island in return. We succeeded in re-opening the mission on Fortuna, chiefly by means of a party of Fortuna natives, who had been residing for some months on this island, and who obtained a passage to their own land on board the "John Williams." It was in consequence of mutual intercourse between natives of this island and natives of Tana, that we succeeded in opening up a new station on that island. There is a limited and irregular intercourse at present carried on between the islands; but it is carried on at such a risk, and often at such a loss of life, that we do all in our power, not to encourage, but to discourage it. Within the last year from twenty to thirty lives have been lost between this island and Tana and Fortuna. Had we a schooner, such as we contemplate, we could regulate as well as encourage this intercourse; so that the most influential natives would chiefly make and receive these visits.

In the third place, it is highly probable that before we can possibly procure such a vessel, missionaries will be settled on some of the adjoining islands; and if so, it would be desirable in the highest degree, that we could maintain regular communication with one another. It would be encouraging, and might be beneficial for new brethren, to have a visit several times a year, and it would be an additional guarantee for their safety. This, however, cannot be done unless we have a vessel, such as we propose, at our command. All that the "John Williams" can accomplish, is to pay us a visit once a year; or, as in the present instance once in two years, and land the supplies of the missionaries. These are impertinent and indispensable services; our vessel, however, would only supplement, not supersede, the services of the "John Williams."

From enquiries that we have made, we are satisfied that such a vessel could be obtained, and fully fitted out for sea, for the sum of three hundred pounds sterling. (£300.) We are further certain of this, that the current expenses of such a vessel would not be heavy. She would be employed only on occasional