

brethren of the Loyalty Island mission offered if we procure the vessel to raise from their friends in the Australian colonies £300 of this sum which leaves £300 to be raised by you and our friends in Scotland, or £150 from each of the two churches. I ought to mention that when our brethren of the Loyalty Islands made the above offer they fully expected to extend their mission to New Caledonia, but the French government there will not allow this at present, so that their field of labor is much narrowed. But if you and our friends in Scotland grant the £300 there is no doubt but our brethren of the London Missionary Society and we will be able to raise £300 more in the Colonies.

You may be apt to think that we have gone too far in this matter without consulting you. Our peculiar circumstances is our only apology. Our distance from you is so great that we seldom receive answers to our letters before 18 months or two years. Now if we get a vessel at all it is important that she should be here before the "John Williams" leaves on her next voyage to England between two and three years from this time. Mr Copeland is writing to the committee of his church as I have written to you. If you approve of the object which we propose it is necessary to consult them and take such measures as your judgments may direct in carrying it into effect. May God direct you in this and in all other matters relating to his work on these islands.

PROVISIONS FOR NATIVES.

A quantity of provisions was sent to Mr Copeland by a late arrival from Sydney. This was done at the suggestion of Mr Inglis who apprehended suffering on the island from the destruction of food caused by the fearful hurricane of March last and the sickness of the natives. Had it not been for the great mortality there would doubtless have been a severe famine. I do not hear of any special distress, though the food has been very scarce. Had this supply of provisions come to hand six months sooner when the natives were working hard at both stations repairing the damages caused by the hurricane and fire it would have been a very seasonable relief. But all our work was done before it reached us and we have no special need for it. Some of it has been purchased by the missionaries for their own use and the remainder of it will be sold to the best advantage. We do not think it would be wise to give it to the natives when they are not in a suffering state, as we do not wish to make them dependant on us. I feel truly thankful that we have been able to surmount our present difficulties without any foreign aid. If anything has been collected in Nova Scotia to aid the mission in present circumstances it will not now be required. But while I write thus we do not the less feel the kindness of the friends of the cause at home. Indeed we were deeply affected by their expression of sympathy. May their reward be from him who says, "Inasmuch as ye had done unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me."

The church at large will no doubt be deeply affected by the sad trials through which this mission has passed. But while there is much to humble, there is much also to cheer. Great prospects of usefulness are opening up before us. Pray for us that the Word of the Lord may have free course and be abundantly glorified in these distant isles of the Sea. I remain, Rev and Dear Sir, very sincerely yours, &c.

JOHN GEDDIE.

Rev James Bayne, Sec. B. F. M., P. C. L. C.

We have thought it advisable to publish Mr Geddies remarks regarding the call for a larger vessel, though the Board of Foreign Missions have not felt themselves free to respond to the appeal of the missionaries on the New Hebrides, and have withheld in the meantime all appeal to the church on the subject. But the matter is still undergoing the careful consideration both of our Board and of the Committee of the R. P. Church, Scotland. Correspondence is now in progress on the subject, and the whole matter will be laid before the Synod at its next meeting for its final decision.—ED. RECORD.

ANEITEUM, Dec. 27th, 1861.

REV AND DEAR SIR,—

I mentioned in one of my letters that a quantity of rice and biscuit had been sent to this island at the suggestion of Mr Inglis and that it would not be required by the natives. Since that letter was written I have seen Mr Copeland and we