

been looking forward to the arrival of the vessel. It was a high day with the children of the schools. The railway company and all concerned rendered their help, and the whole affair was so satisfactorily managed that no accident took place. The day was fine, and all seemed pleased with the arrangements that were made.

"A Missionary breakfast was held on the day that the vessel was appointed to sail. The company was select, there was a large number of ministers present, and a deep and holy feeling pervaded the meeting. All appeared to be impressed with the duty of doing something for the South Sea Missions worthy of Victoria, this land of gold. We are now holding preparatory meetings with a view to organise a board of Missions to co-operate with the London Missionary Society. The object is to unite the Presbyterian body with our own, and try to support several Missions in Western Polynesia. All my influence will be exerted to promote this object, feeling assured that the Directors would rejoice to find that the colonies were able to bear a part, if not the whole of the burden of the support of our South Sea Missions."

The "John Williams" finally left Sydney for the Islands the 28th January, having on board, besides the Missionaries who had sailed in her as passengers from England, the Rev William Howe, of Tahiti, returning from a visit to Australia for the benefit of his health. The ship reached Tahiti the 11th March; and, after touching at the Society Islands, left for the Hervey Group on the 24th of the same month.—*Missionary Chronicle*.

LETTER FROM MR. INGLIS.

The last *Reformed Presbyterian Magazine* contains a letter from the Rev John Inglis, of date 23d December 1856, about six weeks later than those received by us from Mr Geddie. We subjoin a few extracts:—

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—I duly received your kind, interesting, and encouraging letters of May 15th and 22d. My last letter to you was dated Oct. 4th, and, along with others of an earlier date, was forwarded about that time by way of China. In November I wrote to Dr. Synington, and also to Dr Goold, and sent these also by a vessel bound for China. I likewise forwarded a copy of Matthew's gospel, the printing of which

was then completed. Mr Geddie has since printed the book of Jonah, a primer, and an almanack; a copy of each of these I shall send you by the first opportunity.

We are highly satisfied with the arrangements you have made about the "John Knox;" and we have written to Rev Dr Ross and to some other friends of this mission in Sydney, in order to have our wished-for schooner sent forward with the least possible delay. Mr and Mrs Gordon, and Miss Geddie have not yet arrived; if the "John Williams" however, sailed from London at the time we last heard of as being fixed for her departure, viz. the month of July, they may be in Sydney at present. But how or when they may reach Aneiteum we know not.

I am again happy to say that the mission families are both well, and the prospects of the mission continue highly encouraging. The rainy season set in this year about a month earlier than usual, but there has been no observable difference in the public health on that account. The only marked feature of the season is an exuberant growth; the hills are covered with the freshest verdure, the forests are clothed with the richest foliage, while the plantations and gardens of the natives are either producing or promising an abundance of food. Should no hurricane sweep over the island, bread-fruit and bananas will be unusually plentiful. So far as the season has advanced, we have abundant reason to celebrate the goodness of the Lord, and to express our gratitude to the Father of all our mercies.

Our Teacher's Institution is nearly completed. The roof is covered in, the walls plastered, and a part of the floor laid. But it will take the most skilful of our native workmen, the two Samoan teachers, and myself for a month or two longer to get doors, windows, tables, desks, forms, and other fittings-up finished. Last week I opened another excellent plastered school house. It stands in a settlement about two miles inland; and the natives carried from the shore on their backs all the coral for the lime. Other four school-houses of the same kind are ready to be commenced. Three weeks ago I married seven couples on one day. Two of the bridegrooms had previously had two wives each; on that occasion they publicly renounced all claim upon the one, and promised to