

should have a more complete organization than we now possess. As we all believe the Presbyterian form of Church government to be in accordance with the word of God, we should like to see it fully developed in these distant islands, where God has called us to labour in his cause.

In the event of anything being done in this matter, you must understand that we and our brethren from Scotland must be *one body*. Our work is so identical, and our interests have become so entwined together, that we could not form separate bodies without great injury to the cause. It would be better to remain as we are, than to have different ecclesiastical organizations.

It has been a question whether we ought to have one or more Presbyteries. The objections against a single Presbytery are these. 1st. As the islands are independent of each other, the language different, and the mode of operation not always uniform, the missionaries on the several islands are the most competent to transact all local business. 2nd. Missionaries from other islands could not attend a meeting of Presbytery at any particular island, without losing about two weeks of time, which, if often repeated would be very injurious to our work. 3rd. If a Presbytery were formed what relation should it sustain to the Synods in Scotland and Nova Scotia. There would be a difficulty here. 4th. Our only means of communication between the islands is the *John Knox*, and were any accident to befall her, missionaries from other islands could not attend meetings of Presbytery, so that its advantages would be limited.

It seems to be the general opinion of the brethren that these difficulties might be to some extent obviated by the formation of three Presbyteries for the transaction of all local business, and out of these a Synod for the transaction of all business affecting the general interests of the mission; and to which appeals could be made for final decision. There might be a Presbytery on Aneiteum, and from the position of Futuna any missionary settled on that island would be a member of it. There might be a Presbytery on Tana also which now has three missionaries, and if there were occasion for it, we might spare one or two of our ruling elders from this island to engage in the work there. The island of Erromanga might form another Presbytery. Mr Gordon is alone at present, but we hope the time is not distant when he may have a fellow labourer. He may see his way clear by that time to set apart some native to the office of ruling elder.

I have now stated as nearly as possible the views expressed at our late meeting. We now leave it with the Board of Foreign Missions to proceed in the matter as you may deem best. It will, of course, be necessary to correspond with our friends in Scotland on the subject. If your views should harmonize on the subject of forming a united Presbytery or Presbyteries, you will ask for Synodical authority in the name of this mission, to enable us to proceed in the matter. May you be divinely directed in this and in all things relating to the extent on of the Redeemer's cause.

I remain, Rev. and Dear Sir,
very sincerely yours,
JOHN GEDDIE.

Rev. J. Bayne, Cor. Sec. B. F. M.

THIRD LETTER.

Impressions regarding Mr. and Mrs. Johnston—thanks for supplies—call for Prayer—first Missionary Conference—death of Namuri; his sufferings and character—his dying words—cheering aspect of Tana and Erromanga—natives regretting departure of Mr. Geddies children, &c.

ANEITEUM, Aug. 3rd, 1860.

MY DEAR BROTHER.—

You have no doubt been informed of the safe arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Johnston at this island. They came here on the 25th of June last. Since their arrival Mr. Johnston's time has been profitably employed in visiting some of the neighbouring islands.

I need scarcely say that we have been much cheered by the arrival of our new friends. We feel truly thankful that you have sent us persons so amiable in themselves, and so fitted for the work in which they are about to engage. I am