

"I see in a copy of the *Register* which I have received that it is intended to send out pious mechanics, if suitable men can be found. I would much rather hear of missionaries coming. We highly appreciate the motives which have led to this and feel truly grateful to the Board, who wish to relieve us to some extent from manual labor. Nevertheless lay agency, as far as I can learn, has not operated well in these islands. Whether the fault lies with the *system* or the *men* I cannot say with my present knowledge. But Mr Inglis is to be here to-day and we hope to discuss the subject, and write our views to our respective Churches on the subject. If candidates have not been found, I would be glad if the Board would delay for the present. If the Church wishes to be economical this can only be done by sending out men of high standing, that through them all subordinate agencies may be erected on the spot. But if any persons have been sent we will gladly welcome them as fellow laborers in the work, and do all that we can to promote their comfort and usefulness.

* * * * *

"JOHN GEDDIE."

OLD CALABAR.

IKUNETU.

Our readers will be glad to see a new name appearing among the missionary stations at Old Calabar. The following letter from the Rev Hugh Goldie, dated Ikunetu, 14th July, contains the very gratifying intelligence, that he, Mrs Goldie, and Miss Johnstone, removed to it on the 2d of July, and that the station was opened on the first Sabbath of that month. It is the first advanced post, in the way to the interior, being situated on the great Cross River, about twenty-five miles above Creek Town; and we feel certain that the members of the church will unite with us in the fervent prayer, not merely that it may prove a centre of light, life, and gracious influence to the people around it, but that it may be an Antioch, from which men, called by the Holy Ghost, shall go forth into the dark regions beyond it.

The New Station of Ikunetu.—For a while past I have been pretty regularly employed during the week at Ikunetu, in endeavouring to get our location there put into habitable order, and on Sabbaths at Creek Town, taking part with Mr Waddell in the services of that station.

After much vexatious delay and a good deal of hard work, we were enabled, on the 2d of this month, to bid good bye to our friends down river, and proceed to our new station.

In the map you gave a while ago in the *Record* (January 1852) of the Calabar, Ikunetu or George Ekrikok, is laid down, on the Eastern bank of the Cross River, where it is divided into three principal streams by the Islands which crowd its bosom. Creek Town and Guinea Company are situated with it in a peninsula formed by the Cross River and the Old Calabar branch, the neck of this peninsula lying between Umon and Uwet. In the tract of country so defined, there are besides the Calabar settlements, the tribes of Aukanyong, Odut, Ekvi, Uwet, with Umon adjoining on the north-west.—Among these tribes there are three distinct languages spoken besides the Efik, though it is understood by all as a common tongue. Though Ikunetu is but a few hours journey from Duke Town, it was only once in several years that curiosity led a white man to visit our secluded village. The canoe of the native is the only craft which traverses our noble river, and the wild and rather mournful chant of the canoemen at their paddles, the only sound which, with the inarticulate voices of the forest, breaks its solitude.

One day, no doubt, the busy hum of populous cities will be heard along the banks of this great highway into the vast interior; and the frequent steamer, if something better does not supersede it, will be seen breasting its stream.

The appearance of the country here is very much what it is at our older stations; flat along the course of the river, and towards the interior slightly diversified by undulations of no great altitude. At this distance up the river the mangrove has disappeared, and this somewhat changes the aspect of the vegetation, for the mangrove forms the great bulk of the forest towards the coast.

As I mentioned formerly, in coming to Ikunetu we come among a people wholly agricultural. During the greater part of the year they are scattered among their plantations, which stretch away from the river, and it is only during a part of the rainy season, when they cannot carry on the work of the plantations, that they reside in the town. The labours of the Missionary at this station will, on this account, be carried on at considerable