

contribution every year to the London Missionary Society.

A handsomely bound copy of the Holy Scriptures, and nearly all the useful English school books, are translated into the native language, and are in universal use. The Samoans are naturally a superior, and comparatively speaking a refined race, and I believe they are farther advanced than any other native race in the South Seas; except perhaps, the Tongans of the Friendly islands, whose great progress I know only by reputation. They are all Christians, and are now manifesting a desire for progress in the direction of law and order. Their hospitality combined with their ceremonious manners impress all visitors with a feeling of satisfaction.

I may here state that so very strictly is the Lord's day observed in all the christian islands of the South Seas, that I have heard the wisdom of this exact teaching questioned even by serious men, who averred that "the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." To me it appears quite right, for the heathen must be dealt with in the beginning as children, and we do not give the same liberty to the infant mind as to that of mature growth.

Mission operations in the New Hebrides group have still much to contend with; it is only beginning to be felt in many parts; and the natives are physically and intellectually low in the scale of humanity. However a great effort is being made, and all honour to Nova Scotia, the first English colony to send missionaries to the heathen; the right sort of men are at work, and ere long, with God's blessing, Christianity will grow and blossom like the rose, and take the place of ignorance and cruelty.

The natives of Aneiteum, a very poor race indeed, have had the advantage for years, of the labours of Mr. Inglis, one of the most judicious and devoted of missionaries. His colleague, Mr. Geddie, I had not the pleasure of meeting, but Bishop Selwyn's testimony of him is a sufficient guarantee of his value. When I visited this island fourteen months ago, an epidemic broke out which caused great mortality among the natives; and I shall never forget the great care and anxiety manifested by Mr. Inglis and his excellent wife for the sick and dying, visiting the poor creatures from house to house with medicine and cordials, and treating them as tenderly as though they were their own children.

This sad visitation suspended the operation of a large native school near Mr. Inglis's residence, so that I had not an opportunity of seeing it at work, but judging from this good man's zeal and ability, I have no doubt of the style in which it is managed and the success attending it.

I need hardly add, that the Aneiteumese

are all christians, and a beautiful copy of the New Testament with suitable school books of the native language are in the hands of every family. The leaven of Divine Truth is slowly but surely developing itself on the thrice blood-stained island of Erromanga (thanks to the devoted Gordon, brother to one of those who fell in his master's service,) as it is on the other island of this group.

Mr. Fletcher is working hard and successfully on the unhealthy and lonely island of Rotumah. He is holding on until he completes a translation of the New Testament and then I hope some compassion will be in store for him as his constitution and that of his attached wife are suffering a good deal.

It is impossible to speak here of the labours of each individual missionary, I would gladly do so, if the narrow limits of a letter permitted.

Bishop Pateson's mission field, Bank's island and the Solomon Group, I have not visited, but the name of such an eminent divine is a sufficient guarantee that the Lord's work is prospering there under the able management of this highly gifted servant of God.

The French Roman Catholic Mission, I purposely avoid criticising, but it has not succeeded by any means. Batchelor missionaries may teach religion, but they want the grand co-operation and influence of woman to teach the heathen domestic comfort and civilization.

I have thus briefly recorded my experience of mission work in the islands of the South Pacific, carefully sought out and impartially stated, in the hope that gainsayers may be convinced and christians rejoiced when they know that the Lord's cause is being honoured and magnified in these once dark spots of the earth.

My opinion of the personal qualifications of those entrusted with so great a work may be gathered from the above facts; and yet under a sense of its magnitude, we may say "who is sufficient for these things?" However the "the treasure of the Gospel" is committed to "earthen vessels," for the express purpose "that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of men." Accordingly, it has pleased Him to appoint as his agents in the Church, men with their infirmities and imperfections; and yet contrary to this, God's plan, there are to be found inconsiderate persons who would rebel from the ministry all besides the arrogant and the vain. When personal piety is unequivocal; and when it exists in unity with zeal for the inculcating of the truths and the holy morality of the Gospel; qualifications as to other points, may, consistently with charity, be a subject of trust. A necessity is laid on every believer in the Son