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REPORTS
OF THE BOARDS OF
HOME & FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA
SCOTIA, FOR 1848—9

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HOME
MISSIONS.

The close of another Ecclesiastical year affords your Board an opportunity of presenting their annual report, they do so with pleasure, and they treat with feelings of unfeigned gratitude to the Great Head of the Church.

Since the last report was rendered, the aspect of affairs has undergone such a steady and progressive improvement, that your Board by a comparison of the past with the present and the charming prospects of the future, feel assured that the anticipated results of exertion in promoting those objects which tend to advance the glory of the Redeemer, were not unduly magnified.

For several years, the Synod is aware, the cause of the Redeemer among us appeared to languish—as if the Church rested under his displeasure—so much of necessity existing, and so little of available means to meet necessity—and it cannot be a matter of astonishment that such an impression was entertained. A new spirit, however, has been gradually manifesting itself—new vigor has been imparted—new energies called into exercise—and the result has been that the gathering clouds have been dispersed and what may be regarded as a new era, has dawned upon the Church. It is unnecessary to dwell upon the past, which from various circumstances must ever be considered many and painful regrets. Facts are of too recent date, and their effects too extensively felt to be forgotten; and they place beyond a doubt the assertion, that the present, as contrasted with the past, is indeed fraught with hope.

In making these observations, your Board would desire gratefully to acknowledge that it has not been “by might nor by power, but by the Spirit of the Lord” that any measure of success has attended upon the schemes of the Church and to Him from whom flows all blessing, they would ascribe all the praise, earnestly praying, that while He does, or despise the day of small things, “a little one” under His superintendance “may become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation.”

The internal affairs of the Church, your Board would observe, have

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undergone a corresponding change, tending to encourage the hope, that the cheering prospects of the present, are but the precursors of more prosperous days, and that the fruitful and energetic developement of the various plans of the Church, will lay a secure foundation of both prosperity and extension in future years. The enlargement of the Synod's course of Theological training, is one of the favourable features of her present position, affording as it does a more extensive and thorough course of instruction to her students, than has been heretofore enjoyed, and, from which, ultimately, the best effects may be anticipated. In addition to this, the commencement of a course of Philosophical and classical instruction, by placing again within the reach of the youth of the Church, the means of preparatory study, affords the strongest ground to hope that, if maintained in efficiency, our Institutions, even upon their present limited scale, will afford an unfailing supply of well educated ministers, as well as a safeguard against the dangers arising from the absolute necessity, heretofore existing, of seeking instruction beyond the control of the Church. It may also be anticipated that eventually the facilities thus presented may be embraced by others, whose object is not the Holy ministry.

In adverting to the actual amount of available missionary labour, your Board find the same grounds of encouragement and causes of thankfulness.

They refer with pleasure to the arrival of the Revd. Robert Sedgewick, formerly of Belmont-street congregation, Aberdeen, and trust that he will be a valuable acquisition to the Church with which he has cast in his lot. They would also avert to the pleasing fact that, besides Mr. Sedgewick two more labourers have been added to the Church, Messrs. Ebenezer Ross and Isaac Murray, and that there is a prospect of a third, Mr. Thomas S. Smith, who has been recently licensed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, New Jersey, United States, making, thus, in all, should Mr. Smith return, a band of six labourers, available for active missionary duty.

But though thus at present, amply supplied, the Board would remind the Synod, that the supply is inadequate to meet existing vacancies, and, as it is probable, that the most if not all of these brethren, will ere long be settled; it becomes a matter of moment to anticipate deficiencies by providing, as rapidly as circumstances will permit, additional laborers to occupy their places in the missionary field.

During the year the Revd, George Walker has been removed from the field, by settlement over the congregation of New Glasgow.

Since the arrival of these brethren they have been actively and usefully engaged in the different Presbyteries, and their reports have been highly satisfactory to the Board, as indicating a desire to fulfil their appointments with zeal and fidelity.

Into a minute consideration or analysis of these reports, your Board do not deem it requisite to enter. They would, however, remark in general, that extensive, tho' necessarily inadequate supply has been afforded to the vacancies in Prince Edwards Island. That in the Pres-

bytery of Truro similar supply has been afforded to Parsboro, Londonderry, Musquodohit, and Wallace River, and through the brethren of the Presbytery, ordinances have been maintained in Yarmouth, as steadily as the distance and expense would warrant. That in the Presbytery of Pictou, supply as demand has been given, and in addition, two missionaries have been sent to Cape Breton, Guysborough, and Canso, a mission, claiming the watchful care of the Church, as affording an extensive sphere of highly remunerative labor, and demanding more attention than the Church has hitherto been able to bestow.

Your Board have no means of affording an accurate statement of the number of Sabbaths, devoted to the different congregations and stations. But from the preceding remarks it will be apparent, that during the current year, a much larger amount of supply has been given than in any previous year, and attended, it is hoped, by proportionably beneficial consequence. But while your Board made these observations, it must be remembered, that the work is but commencing, and that watchfulness and energetic superintendence will be required, to place it in that situation in which it will be able to accomplish all that the Church proposes.

The importance, and your board may add the necessity for efficient Home Missionary operation, is daily becoming more apparent. It is seen in the internal state of the Church—in the extensive and comparatively unoccupied sphere which lies beyond, and which it is hoped will ere long form an interesting part of the missionary operations of the Synod—and further your Board conceive that there are other subjects which might be brought profitably under its superintendence.

It cannot be regarded, your Board conceive, as exceeding due bounds, to affirm, that just in proportion as Home Missions prosper, will the Church flourish, for such has hitherto been the result of experience. Taking this view, the Board beg to subjoin the following remarks. The Missionary field is one which has more or less attracted the attention of professing Christians, particularly the Foreign sphere; and there are various reasons for this. Influences and feeling are brought to bear upon this particular point, which are but tardily developed, in reference to destitution at home, and perhaps it is a wise arrangement that it is so. For this reason it must be evident, that to develop resources in reference to the common place and well understood subject of Home Missionaries, must require a degree of conscientious conviction, higher than is demanded for the more exciting and less understood work of heathen conversion. What then would be the result of steadily promoting the Home Mission cause. It would in various ways promote, far more extensively than at present, operations abroad; because the piety which could be led to cultivate the more familiar field under its own eye, and around which justly, perhaps, less excitement is concentrated, would naturally, as a matter both of duty and of feeling, be directed with redoubled activity to distant scenes. But there is another view which suggests itself to your Board. The Home Mission is the means of supplying vacancies, and if with the contributions obtained for general purposes, the different missionary Boards are enabled to meet existing demands, the settlement of ministers through the agency of Home Missions, in each of the vacant

charges of the Church, together with the stated employment of an itinerant Home Missionary or two, would put at the disposal of both Boards, means of exertion, far more extended than present circumstances would warrant the Church to expect. With regard to the general design,—the salvation of souls—the same view may be presented; and your Board are persuaded that by steady and combined effort—the aspect of the Church would, through the Home Mission scheme, be soon and encouragingly changed.

In the estimation of your Board, the success of the Synodal Theological Seminary is inseparably connected with the efficient working of Home Missions. The circumstances of the country, render it difficult for young men to maintain themselves during the required attendance at the Seminary, and the deeply worldly tendencies of the times, divert the activities of those who have the means, into other channels, and hence it becomes a necessary part of the duty of the Board, to aid, as far as in their power, pious and talented young men, who are willing to devote themselves to the ministry, but who may be deterred from so doing, by pecuniary difficulties. To this subject the anxious attention of the Board has already been directed, yet, they feel themselves necessarily hampered, by the numerous objects to which their labors are directed, and the limited amount of funds.

The assistance of weak congregations, constitutes an important branch of the duties of the Board. But from the state of other matters, not much attention has been paid to this part of the constitution.

There is another view of the subject to which, however, your Board would direct the notice of the Synod, desiring that if deemed necessary specific instruction might be used for future guidance. In different localities where formation might be attempted, almost insuperable difficulties present themselves, arising from the limited resources of the people and the want of proper organization. By aiding such localities for a few years, the assistance thus given would ultimately convert them into self-sustaining congregations; while by neglect they are absorbed by other denominations, and here, it is believed by your Board, that the Home Mission might signally extend its usefulness. Parties shrink from applying for ordinances, for fear of failing in their engagements. But if encouraged and aided, dormant energies are aroused, and the result is the extension of the Church. In this way by prompt aid, the congregation of Yarmouth has been added to the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia. Similar assistance was tendered to Charlotte-town, but from various circumstances it was deemed inexpedient to attempt a formation there at present.

There is another point which your Board would bring under the notice of the Synod. In many parts of the Provinces there are scattered bands of Presbyterians, almost if not altogether destitute of ordinances such as they desire; and who, rather than remain in this condition prefer connecting themselves with other Bodies. Could the Synod employ a stated missionary to visit, encourage, organize, and hold out the prospect of pecuniary co-operation to such localities, exercising over them a constant supervision, showing them that they were not neglected, such visits, though few and far between, would confirm them in

their adherence to the good old way, and be the means of great spiritual good.

That such a course is within the power of the Church cannot be doubted, and that ample funds would be obtained can as little be questioned, for He whose is the work has said, "according to thy faith be it unto thee," and all experience testifies to the fulfillment of the promise. The attempt is worthy of consideration, and if made, might in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward's Island be superintended by Presbyteries in connection with your Board, and in New Brunswick under the supervision of the Board, in co-operation with the Rev. Messrs. Darfiel and John McCurdy, whose acquaintance with that Province would be highly serviceable.

There are other matters, which your Board consider, might be made the subject of action by the Synod; but the preceding appear to them, to be the most necessary and pressing. They would however warmly recommend to the Synod, a thorough and systematic endeavour to promote the objects of the Mission, fully satisfied, that so far from conflicting with other objects and interests, or tending to their injury, they will render them more productive and successful, than they ever can be, when there is want of concentration and effort.

During the elapsed year the Board has been compelled to draw largely upon their Treasurer. But in part at least, the sums expended will be repaid.

They have drawn funds for several valuable objects.

I. For payment of Missionaries, and this will include expenses of mission to Yarmouth, a portion of which expenses will, however, be repaid by the congregation.

II. They have given the sum of £5 to a weak congregation, and the Church has been pledged for £25, for a few years, to aid the congregation of Yarmouth in maintaining gospel ordinances; though they do not anticipate the necessity of drawing upon the Board for more than the first year.

III. Different sums have also been appropriated in aid of young men attending the Seminary, and preparing for the ministry, and here also, your Board would observe, that part of these sums will be repaid.

Lastly. They have directed their Secretary to draw for the amount of Mr. Sedgewick's passage, £25 sterling, and remit to the Board of Home Missions of the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland.

But notwithstanding these drafts, and the distressed state of the times, they have no doubt that the fund will be sustained.

From the experience which since their appointment the Board have obtained, and their insight into the working and results of the Home Mission scheme, they would most earnestly recommend to the Synod, to have it put upon the most efficient footing, assured that the prosperity

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of the Church is inseparably connected with its success—that just as rapidly as one field is occupied, others will be presented, and by offering to the different congregations of the Church a view of the workings of the plan, which will commend itself to their piety, there will be little reason to complain, that Pastors are in advance of the people, or that there is deficiency of funds; and so satisfied are your Board of this, both from the cheering promises of the Head of the Church, and by past experience, that not until the trial has been made perseveringly and conscientiously, and has failed, will they be led to believe that in the faithful attempt to fulfil the departing injunction of the Redeemer, to go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature, will he, who claims as his, the gold and the silver, and the cattle upon a thousand hills, leave un replenished the treasury of the Church. Let the attempt be but made, and the result will be according to the promise.

ACCOUNT.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS WITH THE TREASURER.

	RECEIPTS.	£
1848.		
Sept. 1.	Balance in hand	109 12 2
Oct. 30.	Cash from P. E. Island Presbytery	4 17 6
1849.		
Febry. 6.	“ Pictou Religious & Benevolent Society for Ministers’ passages	10 0 0
“ 19.	“ Guysborough Congregation	2 0 0
“	“ New Glasgow cong. [Ministers passages]	8 15 0
April 27.	“ P. E. Island Presbytery	5 0 0
May 1.	“ Truro congregation	6 0 0
“ 8.	“ Gays River congregation	5 0 0
“ 22.	“ Repaid to Board by Rev. G. Walker	8 0 0
June 5.	“ From W. River congregation	3 10 0
“ 25.	“ From Princetown congregation	4 3 4
	“ From Bedeque congregation	1 13 4
	“ From Shelburne congregation	4 8 1
	“ Repaid by the Revd. Mr. Bayne on Yarmouth mission	4 10 10
	“ From Windsor and Newport congregation	17 6 0
	“ From Stewiacke congregation	2 0 0
	“ From Miramichi (Chatham) congregation	2 5 0
	“ From Halifax congregation	20 0 0
	“ From Upper Settlement E. River congru.	4 0 0
	“ From Lower Londonderry congregation	2 0 10½
	“ Half collection at Missionary meeting	1 13 3¼
	“ From Wallace, Parsboro &c.	1 3 8
	“ Repaid by Mr. Geo. Patterson	0 5 0
	“ Repaid by Rev. Mr. Baxter	0 9 0
	“ Repaid by Rev. Mr. Christie	0 6 2¼
	“ Repaid by Secretary	0 5 10
	“ From Yarmouth congregation	11 5 0
	“ From Economy and Five Islands	2 12 0
		£243 2 2

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PAYMENTS.

1848.		£	
Sept. 21.	Paid Rev. W. Millar	3	0 0
Oct. 21.	" 1/2 cost of last Report	3	7 10 1/2
Nov. 8.	" Messenger's expense to E. River	0	7 6
" 16.	" Mr. G. Patterson for Missionary service	4	5 0
Dec. 14.	" Rev. Mr. Baxter, do. to Yarmouth	5	0 0
"	" Mr. R. Grant, do. in P. E. Island	5	0 0
1849.			
Feb. 1.	" Secretary, for a weak cong.	5	0 0
	" Mr. G. Patterson, Missy. service	6	0 0
	" Rev. Mr. Bayne, do. to Yarmouth	10	0 0
April 11.	" Mr. R. Grant, Missionary service	9	0 0
" "	" Mr. G. Patterson, do to P. E. Island	5	0 0
" "	" Do do to Guysboro' &c.	3	0 0
" "	" Mr. R. Grant, do. to Wallace Parsboro &c.	4	10 0
" "	" Do. do to Guysborough	4	10 0
" "	" Secretary for Postage, Stationary, &c.	2	10 0
" "	" For Blank forms, (printing)	0	9 6
" "	" Rev Mr. Byers, Mission to Yarmouth	1	0 0
" "	" Rev. Mr. Baxter, do to do	7	0 0
" "	" Rev. W. McCulloch, do to do	2	19 2
" "	" Postages by Treasurer	0	4 7 1/2
" "	" Rev. D. McCurdy	3	0 0
" "	" Loan to Truro Presbytery	8	0 0
" "	" Rev. W. Millar	5	0 0
" "	" Rev. G. Christie, Missionary service to Yarmouth	12	10 0
" "	" Mr. G. Patterson, do to Guysboro	1	10 0
" "	" Rev. Mr. Bayne, do	4	1 3
" "	" Secretary, Theological Seminary	8	5
" "	" For Rev. Mr. Sedgewick's passage	31	5 0
" "	" Mr. E. Ross, Missionary service	6	0 0
" "	" Secretary and his several orders for aid to young men, attending their studies for the ministry.	46	0 0
	Balance in Treasurer's hands	42	9 10
			£243 2 2

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FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT, OF THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

At the annual Session of our Supreme Ecclesiastical Court, the state of the Church at home and its operations abroad come naturally, directly and forcibly under consideration; and it devolves upon the Board of Foreign Missions, in common with their brethren, to whom have been entrusted the oversight of special departments of the business of the church, to send in an account of their past years' proceedings, and to submit such information as they have obtained, that may have an influence in guiding future operations.

When the last Report of the Board was submitted, intelligence had reached us of the safe arrival of our mission band at the Navigator's Islands, and of their arrangements to confer with the Missionaries there as they had been directed, respecting a permanent location in the Mission field. As had been anticipated by some of the brethren with whom our Missionaries had already held correspondence, the proposal to settle in New Caledonia was not recommended to be carried out. The principal objections urged, were communicated by Mr. Archibald, and published in the *Eastern Chronicle*. Among those that had the greatest influence upon our Missionaries, were

1. The want of co-operation of the London Missionary Society's agents there, and their own inability without assistance to take up and occupy efficiently, such an extensive field.
2. The expensiveness of the situation.
3. The proposed occupancy of that field by the Protestant Bishop of New Zealand, with a determination on his part to resist the interference of any other church.

None of the reasons, probably not all of them together, would have deterred our Missionaries from taking up the ground to which their attention had been first turned, had not a door been opened to them elsewhere, which offered a wider entrance, and efficient co-operation.— They found the London Society's agents about to establish a settlement on the New Hebrides group of Islands, and received a most cordial invitation to join them in that enterprise. Their object being to labour among the heathen, rather than to settle in any particular locality, they believed the purposes of their mission, and the designs of the church would be most efficiently served by casting in their lot with their experienced brethren, and taking part with them in their new sphere of action. They accordingly accepted the proposal, and arrangements were made for conjoint operations, without either party exercising any official or authoritative control over the other, and each depending for direction and support upon the friends of the Redeemer by whom they were respectively missioned.

On the arrival of the 'John Williams', the Mission ship that periodically traverses those seas, and forms the medium of communication between the churches at home and the Missionaries there, arrangements were completed for undertaking the new agency, and the Rev. Messrs. Turner and Nisbet accompanied our friends and Rev. Mr. Powel, to locate them and their families in the Group of the New Hebrides.

The Island of Sandwich or Fati, was the intended scene of their concentrated labours, from which it was designed that the word of life

should sound out to the regions beyond. On it, as on others of this group, native teachers had already been placed, and it was understood that easy access would be obtained by European Missionaries whenever they might arrive. On reaching Fati, it was found that the climate of that Island had been very severe upon the teachers, five of them having fallen victims to fever and ague, since the last visit of the ship; and besides that, without any apparent provocation, a whole ship's crew had been murdered and eaten by the people among whom the teachers dwelt. These and other reasons diverted the Missionaries from this island as the head quarters of the mission, and they finally settled on Aneiteum, a neighbouring island of that group. Portions of Mr. Geddie's Journal describing the island, the operations on it, and the prospects it holds out as a scene of useful labour are hereto appended.

The cordial reception which our brethren have received from the London Society's missionaries forms a most pleasing feature in their reports; and their friendly co-operation with each other exhibits the hallowing influences of the spirit of Christian missions, which aims above all things at the promotion of the divine glory by the conversion of men; and that is always best accomplished when the principles of our holy religion are illustrated in the lives of those who advocate its claims.

In their correspondence with these Missionaries, our brethren have been furnished with facilities for acquiring the language of the natives, which they could not have otherwise enjoyed;—they have been furnished with information respecting the management of missionary work, which years would not have so successfully taught them; they have obtained supplies of missionaries, which otherwise they must have failed to procure, and they are placed directly within the influence of all the advantages which accrue from direct and regular visitations of the Missionary ship.

In this, and in many other ways, do we see the goodness and mercy of God displayed towards them, and loudly are we called upon to thank God and take courage. He has led them by a way they knew not, most directly to a promising field of labour, among degraded, neglected, and savage men. He has preserved their lives, not only amid the perils of the mighty deep, but under the influence of acclimating diseases, and while they have witnessed the ravages of death, among friends and acquaintances, and performed the last services of friendship, and the last rites of humanity towards a veteran soldier of the cross, under whose counselship they expected to join in the battles of the Lord, and while among the missionaries of our friends in other lands, many have fallen down slain in the battle field, they have been spared to tell us of the loving-kindness of the Lord, and to send us the tidings which are as cold water to a thirsty soul.

The spirit of enthusiastic devotedness to their work which they all display, is also highly gratifying and encouraging. The united testimony of our women as well as men, is that if they had learned of heathenism, gave them no adequate idea of its realities, till they saw for themselves. They had heard of the horrid cruelties of the dark places of the earth, they had read of the foul pollutions that were

ed with pagan rites, but the half had not been told, nor could they describe them. Nothing but the love of souls, and a regard to the honour of Jesus Christ, could reconcile them to the scenes they are compelled to witness, yet they tell us they would not if they could return to their country, their friends, and their Christian society, and abandon the hope of being instrumental in furthering the work of the Lord in these dark lands. They express not merely contentment with the lot which they have chosen for themselves, but much gratitude, that while in some respects it is vastly worse than they could have anticipated, in others they have seen so much of the goodness of God.

Yet are we not to suppose that they are in circumstances to accomplish all that they desire. They are but beginning their work, and though its beginning has been auspicious, much assistance will be needed to carry it on. In the commencement they have been efficiently aided by the Missionary brethren with whom they are so happily associated, but on the church at home must they depend for means to extend and fulfil the mission they have undertaken. The seas in which they labour are studded with countless islands, swarming with inhabitants, who are perishing for lack of knowledge, and it would be exceedingly desirable if our church could occupy by herself the field which her agents now hold in common with their brethren. In order to effect this, more means; and more men would necessarily require to be called into requisition. With the men we have, and the addition of such means as might be obtained, our resources for effective service might however be considerably increased.

When recently in Britain, your corresponding Secretary, after embracing an opportunity of presenting the claims of our Mission to the B. of Foreign Missions of the U. P. C. of Scotland, went from Glasgow to London expressly for the purpose of conferring personally with the London Missionary department, and to obtain information respecting details of the correspondence with agents abroad, which could not be satisfactorily procured by any other means. He enjoyed pleasing interviews with several of the working men in the department, and especially with Rev. Mr. Tidman, the Foreign Secretary, who has laid this church under lasting obligations by the kind agency which he has managed in transmitting our supplies to our friends far away, and by the handsome donation of a set of the Society's publications, which have been handed over to the Board, and are here gratefully acknowledged. Mr. Tidman supposed that our church would not long keep Mr. Archibald in a subordinate position, and suggested that as soon as practicable, measures should be adopted to place him on the footing of an ordained Missionary. Though the London Society sends out none in the precise relation in which Mr. A. stands to our Mission, yet he observed that persons who had gone as printers to their Missions, had in several instances, been approved by the brethren abroad, and been ordained as fellow labourers in the work, and Mr. A., he suggested, might be so ordained. The same thing seems to have been proposed to Mr. A. by the Missionaries at Samoa. In writing from that place he says: "I have made the Greek Testament, Theology, and Church history, my principal study since I left home. At present, my attention is more taken up with Hebrew. Should it be the wish of our Synod that I

should be examined by the Missionaries of this Society, with a view to being licensed or ordained, you will perhaps see the propriety of notifying them to that effect." Your Board would urgently recommend that if any such arrangement can consistently be made, no time should be lost in carrying it into effect. Two Missionaries of our own, in full standing, aided by such native agency as they might procure, would add greatly to the efficiency of the work in which they are engaged. An arrangement of this kind would necessarily involve a greater expenditure of funds, but the advantages, your Board conceive, would more than counterbalance it.

The drain upon the funds this year will be considerably increased, when Mr. Geddie's Bills for outlay in commencing operations at Aueiteum, come to hand. He has purchased building ground, both for himself at the principal station, and Mr. Archibald at Epege, and these with the houses they have erected belong to the Church, and must be paid for independently of their income. They have invested some considerable funds in a share of a large boat, which they have joined Mr. Powell in providing for the Mission, and which will be indispensable to their successful visiting any of the neighbouring islands. Besides being associated with the London Missionaries, who receive no more salary than barely suffices to enable them to devote all their time to the missionary work, they would require, were it practicable, to be placed on a salary equivalent to theirs. When the calculation was made of what salary they would require, it was presumed that fruits and vegetables of spontaneous growth would afford them subsistence; but they are obliged to get their provisions from Australia or to buy them at exorbitant prices from passing ships, and Mr. Geddie mentions that to meet this outlay the salary they have been receiving is inadequate. Care must be taken henceforth to provide for the expense of freight of supplies from England, as well as from Sydney. Hitherto no provision has been made for that, and of course remittances are proportionally reduced. These deficiencies will require to be supplied, and a sum to meet expenses of transit made in all time to come.

To meet all these calls upon the benevolence of the Church, considerable exertion will of course be required; but your Board do not doubt but the funds will be supplied. Frowning as has been and still is the aspect of divine Providence, the state of the Treasurer's account will show that sufficient interest in this grand enterprise is felt to supply with liberality this treasury of the Lord. Numerous contributions of clothing and cloth from different sections of the Church have been received, which in some instances have been forwarded, and your Board rejoice to know that many friends of the cause, especially among the females of the Church, are engaged in preparing additional similar supplies. The children of other Churches have been most advantageously enlisted in the good work of the Lord, and some even of our own have come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty. Your Board would recommend that some scheme for general organization among our children should be adopted, and that thus a race may be trained to serve Him when time with their predecessors shall have come to an end.

No direct answer has yet been received to the memorial presented by your Board last year to our sister Synod in Canada, but we have observed from the public Press that a resolution was adopted to recommend their several congregations to make a collection in aid of our funds, and it is probable that we shall very soon receive the proceeds of their benevolent exertions. An extra supply of funds just now would be most opportune, when we have so many extra demands upon our resources. It is to be remarked, however, that these demands are of a temporary character, inasmuch as when houses are built and boats paid for, no expense of any consequence will be required to keep them up.

Though in the good Providence of God no breach has yet been made in the ranks of our missionaries, your Board feel it a matter of much importance that the attention of the Church should be directed to the propriety of providing a fund for the maintenance of widows and orphans who may be left chargeable on the Church. Life is at all times uncertain, and should any of our brethren fall in the foreign field, their families would naturally look to the Church at home for support, and it is an important enquiry how their claims could be met. A scheme of Life Insurance for missionaries in tropical climes, is at present under consideration in the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland, and a correspondence with their Board of Foreign Missions might furnish us with information and put us upon a plan of accomplishing a similar object. The raising of an annual premium for such a purpose might with confidence be committed as a special charge to the widows of our Church.

Your Board feel that the Foreign Mission of our Church, though small in its beginning, is associated with much solemn responsibility, and may, under God, be attended by most momentous results. It is a matter of serious and deeply interesting consideration, that our mission agents are now, by their self-dedication, in the midst of the abominations and perils of heathenism, depending upon the prayers and contributions of the Church for support, that a wide and effectual door has been opened for their reception, and that goodness and mercy have hitherto followed them—that they have now access to benighted minds and can tell them in their own tongue of a Saviour's love, and can plead the promise connected with their high commission—"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the earth."

As a Church we are pledged to this holy enterprise. We have given an earnest of our deep interest in the work. We have put our hands to the plough. We have our agents abroad, and have seen heathenism as it is, and as it cannot be described, and can we think of going back. "If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn to death, and those that are ready to be slain; if thou sayest behold, we knew it not, doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it, and he that keepeth the soul doth he not know it, and shall he not render to every man according to his works." "Freely ye have received, freely give."

APPENDIX.

LETTER FROM REV. J. GEDDIE TO REV. J. WADDELL.

ANEITEUM, New Hebrides Group, Feb. 21, 1849.

DEAR BROTHER,

The 'John Williams' has given us an unexpected call to-day, on her way from Samoa to Sydney. I embrace the opportunity of sending you a few lines by her. In Nov. last I transmitted by another conveyance, long communications to the Board of Missions, which I trust you have received in safety. All items of interest which have transpired since my last letters were written, you will find in the fragments of my Journal which I send along with this.

I regret, dear Brother, that I must begin this letter with the language of complaint. Two years and three months have elapsed since I left Nova-Scotia, and during this time I have heard but once from the Board of Missions, and not at all from any of the Fathers or Brethren of the Church. Have you no word of advice, encouragement, or sympathy, at all? Ah! what a luxury a letter would be in this dark and dreary land, cut off as we are from Christian and civilized society, and surrounded by savages and a few foreigners, worse, if possible, than the natives. But thank God, there is one who will never leave us nor forsake us, and his presence, I trust, we have enjoyed, and will continue to enjoy always.

Our labours are much the same as when I last wrote you. At this station we have one English and two native services on the Sabbath day. Our English service is for the benefit of resident or transient foreigners. The attendance, I regret to state, is small, for most of them prefer to spend the day in indolence and wickedness, rather than in the service of the Lord. The Tract Society in Sydney has given us a grant of books, to the amount of £10, in order to form a gratuitous circulating library, for their benefit. I trust that our labour for the benefit of our brethren, our kinsmen, according to the flesh, will not be in vain in the Lord. But as we have come here to evangelize the heathen, they of course, claim our first and chief attention. Their attendance on the Sabbath day is very fluctuating, it has been as low as 6 or 7, and as high as 90. Many of them think that it is conferring a favour on us to come and receive our instructions, and sometimes they ask what payment we are going to give them. It is hard to convince them that we have forsaken friends and home, and that we are supported by dear friends in our beloved land for their good. This is a stretch of Christian benevolence which they must understand the gospel to estimate. Poor people, they will yet know that we have come to seek them and not theirs; and I hope to see the day when not a few will thank God, and bless the church that has been instrumental in sending the book of the gospel to their benighted shores. Besides preaching every Sabbath day in our little chapel, Mr. Powell and I are accustomed to go out in

different directions, and preach to the natives wherever we can find them. Sometimes we collect 5 or 6, sometimes 10, sometimes 20, and sometimes 30. Perhaps on an average we preach the gospel to about 100 souls (natives) every Lord's day, at this place. Our itinerant labour is somewhat oppressive, and especially at this season, when the sun is vertical, and rain almost every day. We have no roads but only native foot paths, leading through long grass, reeds, or the luxuriant under growth of a tropical clime, and when we come to streams of water we must wade through unless a friendly native has compassion on us. Neither Mr. Powell nor I are robust men, yet our health has been mercifully preserved amidst our exposures.

At this station the press is also at work, when Mr. P. and I can attend to it. We have already struck off alphabets, and some sheets of words for the use of our schools. We have a sheet of sentences ready for the press, and hope to have it through soon. These will keep our schools going for a time.

Of our outstations we have little to report. The natives have treated the teachers well, so far as we are aware. It is their practice to hold meetings on the Sabbath days, and address the natives as best they can. They have the same complaints to make about attendance that we have at this place.

It is almost too early to report progress about our schools; some few have learnt the alphabet at some of the stations, and this is all that I can say. The attendance of the scholars is very irregular. At this station we will have 2 or 3 one day, and perhaps upwards of 20 the next. Then we dare not exercise discipline of any kind, or our schools would be abandoned at once. The parents it is said, do not encourage their children to attend, lest they should become wiser than themselves. But with a little patience and perseverance we will succeed.

I regret that I cannot speak favourably of the healthiness of the island. There is much low and marshy land, and during the hot and rainy season, miasma is generated in these localities. The present season has been unusually unhealthy. Most of the foreigners have been laid up with fever, and several of our Samoans have suffered from fever and ague. The health of all the mission families has hitherto been mercifully preserved. There is an extensive marsh in our neighborhood, but our premises are on the windward side of it, and I trust that with a little precaution, we will not suffer from prevailing disorders.

In a previous communication, I mentioned the presence of Roman Catholics on this island. They number 7 or 8 at present, including priests and laymen. They are a part of the company settled on New Caledonia, about two years ago, but who were driven from there by the natives. They have done nothing here in the way of attempting to proselyte the natives, and unless their outward conduct is materially changed, they are not likely to do much. It is their practice to make the Lord's day a day of sporting, and the heathen around them, with all their ignorance, know that a man cannot be a Christian and a Sab-

bath-breaker too. But whether they contemplate any aggressive movements or not, in reference to this island, our plans for its evangelization must not be altered. If another enemy has entered the field, it ought to stimulate rather than paralyze the energies of the church. There is an omnipotence in the truth of God, which makes it more than sufficient to grapple with Paganism and Popery combined. Nor is popery the formidable obstacle to the truth in heathen lands, that it is in other countries, inasmuch as in the former case, its subjects are unfettered by the prejudices of early education.

In some of my former letters I spoke of a Sandal-wood establishment at this place. Capt. Padden, the proprietor of it, is at present in Sydney, and contemplates carrying on business on a large scale at this harbour; already he has purchased 2 schooners, 2 brigs, and a ship, and expects to find constant employment for them here. To this gentleman we are under many personal obligations, and he has hitherto showed himself the friend of our mission. He is expected here in a few weeks with an importation of foreigners whom he expects to employ.

Another sandal-wood establishment was commenced here a few weeks ago, in connection with a firm in Sydney. It is, however, on a small scale, but should it succeed, as I fear it will, then it will be extended. The parties engaged in this concern experienced great difficulty in procuring a spot of land to build on, and I believe that they have no title to the place which they occupy. The presence of so many foreigners caused the natives to take the alarm. They told us lately that Capt. Padden might remain, and that we might remain, but they wished all other foreigners to leave.

I need scarcely mention that this is a place of rising importance, a more eligible spot in this part of the Pacific could not have been chosen for a mission. It is a centre from which the neighbouring islands may, with facility, be acted on. And Capt. Padden has generously offered us free passages in his vessels, to any of the islands which they may visit. There is ample scope in this group for the energies of any church or society. Were the whole Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia settled in this Group, its wants would not be half supplied; and then, what about New Caledonia, New Britain, New Ireland, New Guinea, and the innumerable isles which stud this part of the Pacific.

Every day our work increases in interest here. As we make progress in the language our instructions become more intelligible, more acceptable, and I trust more profitable to the natives. Only two Sabbath ago, as I addressed a group of some 20 natives, they said one to another, 'Ah let us be quick to learn the good word, that we may know how to be saved.' Such expressions as the above, sometimes cheer our discouragements. It is our constant prayer to God, and it is yours too, I trust, that He would cause this moral wilderness to be glad, and this desert to rejoice and bloom as the rose!

What about another Missionary? One ought to be sent, and I trust will be sent by the return of the 'John Williams.' I have just learnt that two Karatangan teachers are in Samon, on their way to Aneiteum, and will come on by the next visit of the 'John Williams' six months hence. In the meantime they are learning to print. My eldest daughter, Charlotte Ann, has arrived from Samoa to-day in the 'John Williams,' and will remain with us here until the departure of that vessel for Britain. We have resolved to send her home, as we dare not incur the responsibility of keeping her for any length of time in this polluted atmosphere.

I remain, dear Brother,
sincerely, and ever yours,
JOHN GEDDIE.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. GEDDIE'S JOURNAL.

JANUARY 1st.—Through the forbearance and mercy of God, I have been permitted to enter on another year. Oh! for a heart to praise the Lord for his goodness. If the Lord should spare me this year it is my desire and prayer that it may be unlike the past profitless years of my earthly pilgrimage. O, that I may be enabled to redeem the time that is past by improving the time to come. A review of my past life humbles my soul to the very dust. I have attended too little to the state of my own soul, and have felt and done too little for the salvation of others. O, Father of Mercies, endue my soul this year with all needful blessings,—enable me this year to discharge all christian duties—and give me this year strength, physical, moral and spiritual, for the arduous enterprise before me. Condescend, O Heavenly Father, to make use of my feeble efforts this year, to do something for the extension of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Good news from the dark Island of Tanna. The teachers write that the desire for missionaries is great. Some of the chiefs of Port Resolution came to them and made an earnest request to have instructors settled among them. What a mercy that the door is opened in Tanna once more. Oh that there were missionaries to enter in and take possession of the land. I know not when the Macedonian cry of the poor people will be answered.

30th.—Arrived "Rosetta" from Sydney—Letters for us. This vessel brought us letters and papers from Nova Scotia. All friends well. How refreshing to receive intelligence from our dear earthly friends. Did they but know the value of a letter to us in this dark and distant land, they would not be so sparing of them. As much excitement about politics in Nova Scotia as ever. Oh that the people were as much in earnest about the things of Heaven as they are about the things of this world. Great political agitations, I fear, have a soul ruining tendency. Every man, indeed, ought to stand firm for the enjoyment of his civil rights, but no man should allow his mind to become so absorbed by po-

itics as to neglect the rights of his Maker. Liberty is dear to all—civil and religious—and ought not to be given up.

FEBRUARY 6th.—Much rain for the last six weeks. Unhealthy weather. A great deal of sickness among the foreigners. Samoans also laid up. Foreigners are affected with a bad fever—Samoans with fever and ague. The sickness of the latter is mild when compared with that of the former. Our health has hitherto been mercifully preserved. O that the afflicted and the healthy may have grace to improve the present afflictive dispensation of God.

9th—Another Sandal Wood Concern.—A small vessel named the "Harriet," arrived here from Sydney, about the 22d of last month. She is on a sandal wood expedition. The captain's name is Stephens. It is designed to make this harbour the place of rendezvous, and some of the crew are left to take care of the property which they have, and the wood collected. Already a house has been built by the party in the neighborhood of our premises. The natives were very averse to their remaining. We have much to fear from the presence of such persons. From what we have already seen of them, we apprehend that their influence among the natives will be of a demoralizing nature. We were grieved to see them keep native women for several days and nights on board their vessel, and then land them on our own beach before our eyes. It is no wonder the natives ask if foreigners worship Jehovah. I have been obliged to condemn the conduct of my own countrymen before the natives, and also of the miserable women who were sharers in their guilt. The crimes of fornication and adultery are but little thought of among this degenerate people. They smite at the feelings of horror which the crimes occasion to us, and a man will think nothing of bartering the chastity of his wife for a trifling remuneration. I know a case in which this was done for a hatchet and a few hard biscuit. Oh, how few know the mire of iniquity in which the heathen wallows. In those lands where the gospel is unknown, the depravity of man is awful denied. It must be witnessed to be realized. Oh, when will this poor people be washed from the guilt of sin in the blood of Jesus, and from its pollutions in the laver of regeneration. In the midst of the darkness, degradation, pollution and misery that surrounds me, I will look forward in the vision of faith to the time when even some of these poor Islanders will unite in the triumphant song of ransomed souls, "Unto him that loved us and washed us in his blood," &c.

11th—Stone thrown at Mr. Powell by a native to-day. Another Lord's day. As usual visited several villages, and addressed upwards of 60 people in different places. One of my most encouraging days among the people. Their conduct was good, except at one place, where they laughed and talked, and at last got up and scampered away. But thank God I met with something to counterbalance this discouragement. At one of the places where I visited, the natives said, "Let us be quick to learn the word of God, that we may be saved." The darkness of this people is awful indeed. When, oh, when will the sun of righteousness arise and shine on them with healing under his wings. I long for the day—I pray for the day, and in the vision of faith I attempt to realize it. It may be near or it may be distant, but it will come. God of all grace hasten its approach.

Mr. Powell has just told me that this has been one of his worst days. After walking about a considerable distance, he could not collect even a small audience. Although he visited places where our reception had been most cordial, the natives did not wish to hear him. Add to all this, a man whom he invited to follow him, took up a large stone and threw it at him, but it did not strike him. This is the first instance of such conduct since our arrival. Oh, how much do we need the protection of Him who can say to the fury of savage men, "hitherto shalt thou come and no farther." Under the guardianship of God we shall be safe. The work in which we are engaged is one which exposes us to danger, but why should we complain; our divine Lord and his holy apostles, and the blessed martyrs, died in the cause of saving souls.

O that the Lord would take this little mission under his care. May his blessing, which alone can make the means of grace effectual, attend our labors for the good of souls. My heart sighs for the day when some gleam of divine light shall fall on the benighted souls of this people.

Oh that my acquaintance with the language were better. I am humbled when I think how little I know of it. My heart pants to tell this miserable people the wonders of redeeming love. If I was straitened to speak on this subject in my own tongue, how much more in this.— That is a subject that must melt the hardest heart. It has softened the stupid Esquimaux, the degraded Hottentot, and the savage Polynesian, and the hearts of this people will give way under it.

12.—The "Harriet" arrived to-day with the crew of the cutter "Revenge" on board. The latter vessel was driven ashore on the coast of Erromanga on the 8th inst. There were two men on board at the time, the others being absent in search of wood; she was, however, in sight. As soon as the vessel struck, the natives began to assemble, armed with bows and arrows, clubs and spears. Those on board immediately took to the water, and after hard struggling, succeeded in reaching the boat, which by this time had come up to the place. The natives plundered the vessel, and no doubt were disappointed that they did not get the crew for a feast. The boat was then headed for Tanna, and she arrived at Port Resolution on the 10th inst. The natives at this place robbed them of some of their things, and they were apprehensive that they might even seize their boat. On the morning of the 11th inst., a sail hove in sight which proved to be the "Harriet;" they were received on board of her and brought here. I trust that this merciful deliverance will bring them to reflection. They are a wicked and hardened set of men. What a mercy that God has lengthened their day of grace. Oh that his forbearance may no longer be despised by them. When the goodness of God and his judgments are combined, they ought surely to lead to repentance.

16th.—A severe gale of wind occurred yesterday. These happen with greater or less severity in the months of January, February, or March every year. The tide rose to so great a height during the storm as to excite some alarm. We were obliged to draw our boats inland to save them. The sea swept through the house lately built by the for-

signers in our neighborhood. They were obliged to remove everything out of it, and they design to remove it farther inland. A small vessel which lay in the bay rode out the storm, but we were very uneasy about her. The wind has done great damage to the cocoanut, breadfruit and other trees. Last night the gale raised the thatch on our house and the rain came in on us in torrents. We had all retired to bed, and before a light could be procured we were completely soaked with the rain. Mrs. Geddie, Lucy and myself, were obliged to seek an asylum for the rest of the night in Mr. Powell's house.

To-day we have been busy in repairing the damage of the last night. Mats, clothes and other things have been put out to dry. Though our loss has been trifling, still such disasters occasion much trouble. We feel thankful, however, that it has been no worse. It is no uncommon thing for missionaries in the Pacific Islands to lose their houses and property also, by these hurricanes. One occurred at Samoa, in April last year while I was residing at Leone. It was so severe that we left the mission house and took up our abode with a teacher. I felt for Mr. Bullen, Mrs. Geddie and the children, turned out as they were during the night in such a storm. Few persons at home know the inconveniences to which missionaries are subjected in this part of the world, especially the ladies.

The disaster last night happened for want of cocoanut branches being laid on the roof of the house to keep down the thatch. Our trees being *tilaup*, we dare not touch them. Nohoat, the chief, came in this morning, and when he saw the plight we were in, his sympathy was moved. I told him that this would not have happened but for the restrictions he had put on our trees. He told me at once to take what I wanted for my house. This is a liberty that would not have been granted to a native, or even to us some time ago. I trust that ere long missionaries on this island will be exempted from the effects of the *tabu* system, as they are at Samoa.

19th. — An occurrence of more than usual interest has taken place to-day. The late hurricane has done much injury to the cocoanut, breadfruit, and other trees on which the natives much depend for their subsistence. An impression prevails among the natives that these destructive hurricanes are caused by a class of men who are supposed to possess the power of controlling the winds, and who are usually persons of great influence. A native called _____ was blamed for the hurricane which has just taken place. Nohoat, the chief, set off yesterday with a party of natives to seize the man and kill him. The supposed wind maker gathered a party of the people to oppose Nohoat. A skirmish ensued, when one man was wounded but not seriously.

To-day arrangements were made for a general fight. Natives came pouring in from all quarters armed with clubs and spears. The report of the contemplated war having reached our ears, Mr. Powell and I resolved to interfere, and if we could not prevent it, at least give our solemn and public testimony against it. We accordingly set out for the field of battle, which was about a mile distant from our premises. We found Nohoat and his party encamped on a spot of level ground, while

the others occupied the top of a hill about half a mile distant. At the time of our arrival both parties were screaming and yelling at each other, throwing their bodies in various postures, and assuming all the attitudes of challenge and defiance. These are the usual preliminaries of battle among savages. As we knew there was some risk in going into the midst of an infuriated gang of savages, we took a circuitous route which brought us on to the brow of the hill nearly midway between the contending parties. Our presence seemed to have a paralyzing influence on both parties for the moment. Indeed the natives have since told us that they were ready to rush on each other at the time we took up our position between them, but that they were afraid to fight lest we should be injured. Nohoat, the originator of the war was the man we wanted to see, and as soon as we observed him, we descended to the spot where he was. We told him our errand—that we had come to stop the war—that God, and not ———, made the winds, and that if he persisted in the war, God would punish him for his wickedness. He did not say much, but left us abruptly, and walked up the hill, in the direction of the opposite party. As Nohoat left us ignorant of the impression which our words had made, we turned to the body of natives around us, in hopes that we might do something among them. To a large party we were evidently unwelcome visitors. As soon as we addressed them, they raised a kind of simultaneous yell, so that not a word could be heard. Some of our native friends who had skulked into the rear to keep out of our view, evidently began to feel for us and came out on our behalf. After a time we secured a hearing. As we spoke to them some addressed very bad language to us, others said we were foolish men to interfere unarmed, for other foreigners would have brought guns with them, and have told them they would shoot them if the war was not ended. Others said, if Jehovah made the winds, then we must pray hard to him and request him not to send any more hurricanes, or else they would make war on us. Others again assented to all that we said, and acknowledged that war was bad and peace good. As it was evident that we were making some impression, the war party could not stand it any longer, but with a simultaneous shout they seized their clubs and spears, and rushed from the spot where we were. We now sat down to await the return of Nohoat, whom we saw descending the hill towards us. It appeared that after he left us, he ascended the hill, and was met by the leading man of the opposite party, who said to him, "why dont you come on? we are ready to fight you." "How can I," said Nohoat, "for the *alaiahan* (new religion) makes it *titaup* to fight." "True," said the other, "and to-morrow is the anathiat titaup." Nohoat handed his spear and a strip of native cloth to the other, and his were received in return. Thus was peace concluded, and a war averted which might have involved the whole island, for the last general war is said to have originated from a similar circumstance. We had the satisfaction of returning to our homes amid armed natives of both parties, who but a short time before were thirsting for each other's blood.

ISLAND OF UPOLU, SAMOA, 28 April, 1848.
**TO THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
 NOVA-SCOTIA.**

Having returned from a visitation of the stations on the islands to the westward connected with the Samoan mission, it is now our happiness to address you on a subject to which you are, no doubt, looking with deep and hallowed interest and anxiety—your mission to the islands of these seas.

We need not assure you that our mission rejoiced to hail you as coadjutors in our glorious enterprise among the interesting and populous islands in western Polynesia.

Your much respected and beloved missionary, Mr. Geddie, has, no doubt, informed you of the nature and result of our consultations respecting a field on which to employ the energies of the infant mission. Consequently it will be unnecessary here to particularize the reasons which induced us to advise that you should share with our society the labors of a mission on the New Hebrides.

At the last general meeting of the Samoan Mission, we were appointed a deputation to visit our stations on the New Hebrides and New Caledonia groups. It was also part of our duty to assist the Brethern in the selection of what might appear the most desirable spot for the commencement of operations. On that occasion one member of this mission Mr. Powell, was appointed permanently to the work,—one of ourselves, Mr. Nisbet, to assist for a number of months at the commencement of the mission in case an extensive field of labour should be fixed upon.

We sailed from Upolu on 3d July in the "John Williams," and anchored off Aneiteum (Anatom of the chart) on the 13th of the same month. This is an Island on which Samoan Teachers have been located for upwards of 7 years. We have long deeply felt the necessity for European agency to the successful prosecution of missionary labour at this place. Our native agency has appeared unequal to the difficulties encountered; difficulties, arising among other things, out of the language and circumstances of the people, the influence of the numbers of foreigners settled at and frequenting the neighbourhood of the fine harbour it possesses. And to all the difficulties previously felt we have now to add an establishment of popish Priests, who have taken up their position at this very place within these few months, with the evident intention of making it their head quarters for the neighbouring groups, and where they will be ready to embrace any favourable opportunity presenting on the surrounding Islands. They are rather a strong force, being eight priests and eight lay brothers.

It was not the privilege of our teachers at this visit to report any great or definite progress in the work,—their regular meetings for Divine service have been but thinly and irregularly attended. Still they have been able without molestation to visit the people, and converse with them on the truths of the Gospel.

Anxious as we were that this Island should be occupied, it was necessary that we should not hastily decide. When we left Samoa we had more particularly in view the large and populous island of Fate (Sandwich Island) a little to the north of Erromango, as being on many accounts in all probability the most desirable and inviting field for the commencement of operations. The report from that Island last visitation was such as to inspire great hope for the future. We accordingly arranged for the continued occupation of Aneiteum by native agency, and left for Fate, calling at Tana and Niua, of the state and prospects of which we will leave Mr Geddie to inform you.

We anchored at Faté, on the 21st July, and then received the report of our teachers. But it proved very different from that which it was our privilege to hear last voyage. We had to listen to the recital of many untoward events, which cast a gloom over present appearances, and darkened future prospects, as least so far as regarded the neighborhood of the localities where our teachers have been placed.

After prayerful and mature deliberation, we concluded that circumstances forbade the present commencement of the mission at that place. Among the principal reasons which might be noticed as leading to that decision, were—the treatment experienced by our teachers at three of the stations which have been abandoned for many months;—the circumstances connected with and resulting from a most cold-blooded massacre of a crew of a wrecked vessel in the very neighborhood;—the great desire of the natives for property leading them to set a very small value upon human life, when it stands in the way of gratifying desire. All these things convinced us that it would be imprudent for the Brethern at present to land there with their wives, children and property. In these circumstances it plainly appeared to us that the mission would have a much more advantageous commencement, so far as human calculation could determine, by taking up a position on Aneiteum. We could thus with much higher probability reckon upon the permanence of a station, and consequently greater ultimate benefit to the whole group. Before leaving Fate, however, we arranged for the continued occupation, by native agency, of two of the original stations, and opened, under very pleasing and hopeful appearances, two new stations in the neighborhood of one of the finest harbors in the South Sea islands. We trust that this will form at no distant day, the scene of a very fine, compact, and central station for one or two devoted and laborious missionaries.

We then made for Aneiteum, where we again anchored on Sat., 29th July. After necessary arrangements, during the succeeding week the goods and stores of the brethren were all landed; and by the following Saturday they appeared very comfortably located. For the first week or two, they will occupy unitedly the plastered house already prepared by the teachers, till they can erect one for their more convenient accommodation. After commending them to the care and blessing of Him who has said, "Lo, I am with you always," we again sailed, for the accomplishment of the remaining objects of our voyage.

Those now located at Aneiteum are Mr Geddie, his assistant Mr.

Archibald, and Mr Powell of the Samoan Mission. The commencement of operations on this Island nullified the appointment of Mr Nisbet to the Mission, as in this smaller field those to be permanently connected with it will be able to meet the labour and exigencies of the station.

At the present time it might be premature to speak much respecting the probable procedure of the Brethren. However, they would in the first place take an early opportunity of making a tour of the Island that they may acquaint themselves with the number, circumstances, localities and dispositions of the people in the different districts. When they have accomplished this important object, they will be in circumstances to decide upon the nature of the operations most suitable to the sphere of labour.

Regarded as an insulated spot, Aneiteum would be considered a contracted sphere of labour, though still affording sufficient scope for the energies of one or two self-denying and devoted men. But taken in its relative position to the other islands of the group, it is at the present time a place of great importance. It forms a good post of observation for the other islands, and will most probably afford great facilities for extending a superintending care to the stations now occupied by native agency, and frequent opportunities of communicating with them. This will all have a fostering and invigorating influence, which will tend greatly to the establishment and progress of the work. We hope also that the Providence of God will very soon point out increasing openings at other places for occupation by European agency, and then too, Aneiteum might have advantages for the printing press, and thus pour forth streams of knowledge for the inhabitants of the group. We hope that by the next visit of the vessel we may have the happiness of conveying other labourers to the field. We have heard of two from Scotland open for the service, to whom Mr G. has written,—and in that case the Brethren on the spot with the deputation who may be appointed to the voyage, will consult as to the best arrangements for occupying other stations.

In concluding this short communication, we heartily congratulate you on the actual commencement of your "work of faith and labor of love" among those degraded people, and we trust in the Lord that it will only be the beginning of great things. We hope that you will soon realize your expectations of sending out a reinforcement to unite with our dear Bro. Gedlie, your much valued agent now in the field. *Let them be men of the same stamp*, so judicious, energetic and devoted, and under the blessing of the Lord of Missions, we shall expect great results.—The New Hebrides field is ample enough for the devoted exertions of a large band of faithful men. There are many fine Islands, and at a moderate computation, taking the apparent population of the Islands with which we are acquainted as a guide, may be considered as containing not less than 150,000 inhabitants. To us, then, is this grace given that we should bear some humble part in endeavouring to evangelize this teeming population, and bring them to Jesus, that to him their knees may bow and their tongues confess. May the Lord increasingly give to your churches and the churches of your father-land, bowels of compassion for these benighted heathen who are now in the region and shadow of death, not that compassion which exhausts itself in mere regrets and wishes, saying—"Be ye warmed and filled," but that which is practical, active, energetic, sending many representatives to tell them

the story of the love of God in Christ. Then we shall indulge the confident expectation of hearing these fair regions vocal in his praise,—the Isles waiting for his law, and the abundance of the sea converted unto Him.

We remain &c.

Yours in the service of the Gospel

HENRY NISBET.

GEORGE TURNER.

The following extract gives Mr. Archibald's impression of Aneiteum, on the first visit of the Missionaries:—

We left Samoa on July 3rd, and on the 13th of the same month we dropped anchor in St. Patrick's Bay, at Aneiteum. A good number of natives soon came off to visit us, and we had not long to wait before the teachers made their appearance. This was particularly gratifying to us, as the circumstances in which they were left on the previous visit were not so favorable as could have been desired. Looking round for them we spied a number of gents in long black gowns, which too plainly indicated that the Catholic Priest was before us. A mercantile company had commenced business here previous to the last visit of the John Williams. They have obtained a footing on the mainland. I suppose their principal object is to collect Sandal wood, which I believe is to be found on all the islands of the group. They have as yet been able to trade on friendly terms with the natives. We do not know whether or not there is any connection between them and the priests; but about three months ago eight priests and eight assistants landed there. They are putting up a very large building, and they expect daily the materials for another. Of course they can do but little among the natives till they get the language. Capt. Patten stands at the head of the mercantile establishment. He has shown a great deal of kindness and attention to the native teachers stationed there. He has at different times given them flour and other provisions when they were in want, and gives them an opportunity of repaying him in small jobs of work. The native teachers have gained a good degree of confidence and respect among the people; but this is the most we can say. It is now about seven years since teachers were first settled here, yet the people do not manifest any inclination to become acquainted with Gospel truth. When the teachers preach they must go and commence wherever they can find a number of them together. They generally cease working while he is talking to them on the Sabbath, but as soon as his back is turned they commence again. The language of the people is somewhat difficult to attain, on account of the gutturals and double consonants. Indeed these are difficulties which a Samoan can never entirely overcome, and I fear that this forms a great barrier to their usefulness. I am very much afraid that unless Protestant Missionaries occupy this group immediately, that the difficulties will greatly increase. The Priests evidently intend to make this their head quarters. It is one of the finest harbours in the group, and the people are very mild and inoffensive. Aneiteum is a small island, perhaps thirty or forty miles in circumference. The population is not very great. A foreigner who

has some acquaintance says it is about three thousand, but this is only conjecture.

One of the most revolting customs among them is that of strangling widows. It is the invariable practice to kill a woman as soon as it is known that her husband is dead. The teachers have in one or two instances been successful in their attempts to save the lives of females in these circumstances. The natives are rather diminutive in size; their limbs and joints are very small, but they are plump and fleshy. Their faces are so completely covered with mud or paint that it is difficult to know what is their complexion; they are, however, considerably darker than Samoans. The hair is of a reddish brown colour, and is divided into a great many minute parts, and each division is closely wrapped with a fine thread made from the bark of a tree. It is generally allowed to grow long enough to reach half way down the back. The females always cut theirs short. It is the general custom among the men to bore their ears and the central division of their nose. In these they insert plugs of wood in order to enlarge the aperture, and when it is large enough to please them, the wood is removed and tortoise shell rings are substituted. The rank of a chief may be pretty correctly estimated by the number and weight of these rings; a chief of respectability will not have less than a dozen at a time. The bore of the nose appears designed to admit a plug of wood in order to spread the nostrils. The men are entirely destitute of clothing; but the women have girdles of leaves around the waist, and sometimes they wear another around the shoulders. The natives live in miserable huts, not high enough to stand in nor long enough to lie down in. The island is very fertile and the scenery beautifully variegated. Foreigners have introduced horses, cattle, sheep, goats, fowls, &c. The chief Nohoat, under whose care the teachers were left, has treated them with respect, but has given himself but little trouble in providing for them. He promises for the time to come to treat them more kindly. They gave him a present, which he received with the air of a man accustomed to such things. He appeared, however, pleased and satisfied, and requested that another might be left with him. When the vessel was here on the preceding visit, four teachers were left. A few months ago, a chief came from Tanna with a request that two of the teachers there should go to his land;—they complied and went. After leaving St. Patrick's Bay, we went round and placed other two on the station vacated by these two leaving for Tanna.

ERRATA, FOR MISSIONARY REPORTS.

Page	line	7	for	Charming	read	Cheering
2	"	26	for	avert	"	advert
5	"	20	for	when	"	where
8	"	26	for	the	"	these
	"	35	for	their	"	these
9	"	27	for	missionaries	"	necessaries
	"	40	for	counselship	"	leadership
17	"	32	for	depied	"	indeed

ACCOUNT.

FOREIGN MISSIONS WITH THE TREASURER.

		RECEIPTS.		
				£
1848.				
Sept 1.	By Balance per acct.			135 4 5½
" 21.	Cash from Ladies' Penny-a-week Soc. Pictou			3 0 0
	" Juvenile Missionary Society, Pictou			4 0 0
	" From Mr Olding, Pine Tree Gut			0 10 0
" 22.	" From Casempec, £9 8 9			
	" West St Peters 3 4 0			
	" Covehead 5 10 0			
	P. E. Island cur., 18 2 9			
	Diff. in cur., say I—6th, 3 0 5½			
Oct. 9.	" From a Friend			15 2 3½
" 17.	" From Evangelical Society, Fish Pools, E. River			0 0 7½
	" Bible & Missionary Society, New Annan			3 0 0
	" From a Friend			1 5 7
" 26.	" Lot 16, Richmond Bay £4 7 0			0 1 10½
	" Soiree at St. Peters 3 17 0			
	" " at Cove Head 0 10 0			
	P. E. I. cur., 8 14 0			
	Less diff. in Cur., one sixth 1 9 0			
Nov. 22.	" From Clyde River			7 5 0
Dec. 1.	" From Miss N. Smith, Truro			2 7 1
" 8.	" From Ladies' Miss. Society, Tatamagouche			0 5 0
" 31.	" From Truro Congregation			6 0 0
1849				12 0 0
Jan. 18.	" From James' Church, E. River			5 6 3
March 16.	" Miramichi Congregation, 5th contribution			9 0 0
" 18.	" From H. McDonald Esq, South River			1 0 0
May 5.	" From the Rev. G. Christie's Congregation			6 0 0
" 6.	" From Pictou Congregation			10 0 3
" 21.	" From Rev. Mr. Smith's Congregation,			6 5 0
" 23.	" From Truro Bible Society			4 2 6
" 28.	" From the Rev. John J. Buxter, from Youth and Children under his pastoral care—for Boat			1 0 0
June 1.	" From the Executors of the Estate of David Grewar, late of Chatham, N. B.			20 0 0
" 6.	" From Ladies' Religious and Benevolent Soc E. River			5 0 0
" 11.	" From the Treasurer of the Tatamagouche Ladies' F. M. S., being a Donation from Wm. Campbell, late of Tatamagouche			1 0 0
" "	" From Mr. Archibald of Musquodoboit, on acct. of postage			0 5 0
" 25.	" From Lower Londonderry			10 5 4½
" 27.	" From the Rev James Smith Stewiacke			6 12 0
				<hr/>
				269 6 3½

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	Amount Brought forward	£269	6	3½
" 28.	" From the Rev. John Cameron, N. M. R.	10	0	0
	" From Mrs. John Murray, Mabou	1	0	2
	" From The Rev. Jas. Waddell, R. J. Ladies F. M. Com	£6	6	6
	Crriboo Branch F M Soc, for 1848	13	9	
	" From the Rev. J L Murdoch, Windsor	7	0	6
	" From John Campbell, St. Mary's	3	2	9½
	" From Rev. Mr. Millar Merigomishe	7	0	0
	" From J. J. Baxter Onslow	5	0	0
	" From P. G. M'Gregor, Halifax	10	0	0
	" From Mr. George Roy	10	0	0
	" From Upper Londonderry	0	5	2½
	" From half collection at Synod Misy. meeting	5	0	0
	" Per Donation from Mrs. Dr. M'ulloch late of Halifax	1	13	2½
	" From the Rev. Mr. Watson	1	0	0
	" From the Rev. Mr. M'Gilveray, Ladies' Society	5	4	1½
	Collection	£8	5	0
July 2.	" From Mabou	4	18	0
	" From Cavendish	13	3	0
	" From Bedeque	1	5	2½
	" From Princetown	10	5	7
	" From Lot No. 16	6	14	7½
	" From Lot No. 14	20	16	8
" 12,	" From Ladies' Religious and Benevolent Soc. Poplar Grove Church, Halifax	3	6	8
" 16.	" From Musquodoboit Prayer Meeting Society	4	5	0
" 21.	" From New London	5	0	0
	" From Covehead	2	3	0½
July 26.	" From West St Peters	6	6	2½
	" From Mrs. Kemble Coffin, coll. by her	1	13	4
" 31.	" From Evang. Soc. James' Church E. R. Pic.	4	1	0½
Aug. 11.	" From Rev. J. Jennings', Toronto— for Boat	0	19	9½
" 16.	" From Evangelical Society, E. R.	6	0	0
	" From N. Glasg. Ladies' Penny-a-week Soc.	3	0	0

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PAYMENTS.

1848.	Paid Postage	0	0	4½
Sept 1.	" do.	0	0	4½
" 22.	" do. for double letter to London	0	2	3
Oct. 5.	" do.	0	1	6
" 22.	" do.	0	0	4½
	" For Printing, and Paper for Report	3	7	10½
" 25.	" For carriage of Parcels	0	4	7½
	" Rev. John Geddie's order in fav. of Miss Geddie £5 stg, equal to cur.	6	5	0
" 30.	" Freight of box of Clothing from P. E. Island	0	2	6

£10 4 10½

	Amount Brought forward	£10 4 10½
	Freight of same and other articles to Liverpool G B, for Missionaries	0 12 6
	Freightage	0 1 6
	Postage of a letter to Mr Geddie	0 4 6
Nov 14.	" Duty and Carriage to London of Articles sent to Liverpool	
15pt 1.	" Postage	1 19 4½
Jan 9.	" do	0 0 4½
March 16.	" do to Mr Geddie	0 0 9
" 27.	" do on letters from Sydney, Messrs. G. & A to Treasurer	0 4 10
April 9.	" do from Mr. Geddie to Secr. and others	0 7 3
May 14.	" do from Mr. Archibald to do & do	0 18 0
June 1.	" do	0 9 0
" 6.	" do	0 0 9
June 28.	" For 2 nos. Chronicle, sent to Missionaries	0 0 9
July 2.	" Rec Sec Postage	0 0 6
	" Miss. Geddie on acct of her brother £5 stg. equal to cur.	0 15 10½
" 16.	Loss on coin, in transmitting from Synod	6 5 0
Aug. 1.	" Postage	0 1 3
" 18.	" do to Cor. Sec.	0 0 4½
	" Bill of Exchange £50 0 0 stg remitted to the Rev. A. Tidman, London, for boat building, &c. equal to cur.	0 10 5
" 16.	" Postage 2s 3d and 4d	62 15 6
" 22.	" do to Mr. M'Gregor, Halifax	0 2 7½
" 22.	" Mr. Jennings' Eastern Chronicle to Jan. 1850.	0 5 7½
" 31	" Cor. Secy.	1 5 0
	" Postage	3 2 6
	Bill of Exchange remitted to the Rev A Tidman London, £150 stg to pay as follows; viz:	0 0 9
	Mr Geddie's salary in adv. £80	80 0 0
	Additional this year	5 0 0
	Miss Geddie 2 payments	85 0 0
	Bal due board per bill	10 0 0
	Mr. Archibald's salary in adv.	2 19 4
	Additional this year	65 0 0
		5 0 0
	Bal due Board per Bill	£70 0 0
	" For Printing materials, £10 cur. say stg.	9 15 3
	This sum for contingencies to make up the even £150	66 4 9
	£13 0 0d premium on Bill for £150 stg.	8 0 0
		3 14 7
		98 6 8
Sept. 1.	Balance	£278 16 6½
		180 7 8½
		£459 4 3