

Folder # 1

Anderson, Rufus, Boston, 1853.

Letter concerning the Prudential Committee's support for a mission to Fatuhiva composed of native Hawaiians and which is to be independent of the Board.

Missionary House, Boston,

July 9, 1853,

Rev. Ephraim W. Clark,

Sec. of Home Miss. Soc.

My Dear Brother,

Letters from Mr. Alexander & Mr. H. M. Whitney, with Dr. Baldwin's printed letter of April 11th, have brought a question before the Prudential Committee, & it is proper that I communicate to you the answer to it.

The question, put into a general form, is this;— Whether the Prudential Committee would object to efforts being made to raise funds at the Islands, to be applied to the support of a mission to Futuhira, composed of natives, & to be independent of the Board?

I am instructed by our Committee to say, that their views of duty would lead them to acquiesce in a movement of this kind, that was to depend wholly for its support on Island resources.

Considering the facts in the case, as reported

by Dr. Baldwin & Mr. Alexander, we suppose the sending of such mission to Fatuhira must have been decided ere this. The contingencies of a serious nature involved in the proposition of the chief Matumai, will have received a grave consideration.

Should this mission be undertaken by the native community, & should the associated children of the missionaries aid in it, the Committee will cheerfully acquiesce, & bid them 'God's speed'; even though the effect be to divert attention & withdraw funds somewhat from the Micronesian Mission. It is obvious, however, even though the great difference between the languages of the Hawaiian & Micronesian groups should present natives from going in considerable numbers, that the sending of the gospel to barbarous, pagan Islands of the Pacific, is a work, which the Hawaiian churches can understand; & we trust they will by no means be allowed to lose sight of Micronisia. This is the more important, as the past shows how uncertain

of success missionary efforts are in the Marquesas. Should the Hawaiian churches be suffered to lose their interest in Micronisia, & should they utterly fail of gaining a footing on Fatuhira, the result would be a great & lamentable loss of moral power. But all this is most obvious, & has not been overlooked by you.

We shall soon be looking with much interest for the result of the late General Meeting of the Mission; & I am, my dear brother, as ever,
not but yours,

R. Anderson,
Secy. of A. B. C. F. M.

P.S. The copy of your letter to the Micronesian Mission of March 1st, was duly received. Mr. Hill wrote to Mr. Castle on the subject of sending supplies to the brethren in Micronisia. We have a clerical missionary for Ascension Island, but not yet a physician for Strong's Island.

Letter fr. Dr. Anderson

Re D Sept. 12. 1853.

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