

**A DICTIONARY OF THE
ANEITYUMESE LANGUAGE. IN
TWO PARTS. ALSO OUTLINES
OF ANEITYUMESE GRAMMAR**

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A dictionary of the Aneityumese language. In two parts. Also outlines of Aneityumese grammar by John Inglis

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JOHN INGLIS

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A DICTIONARY
OF THE
ANEITYUMESE LANGUAGE.

IN TWO PARTS.

- I. ANEITYUMESE AND ENGLISH.
II. ENGLISH AND ANEITYUMESE.

ALSO

OUTLINES OF ANEITYUMESE GRAMMAR,

AND AN INTRODUCTION,

*CONTAINING NOTICES OF THE MISSIONS TO THE NATIVE RACES, AND
ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE PRINCIPLES AND PECULIARITIES
OF THE ANEITYUMESE LANGUAGE.*

BY THE REV. JOHN INGLIS, *D.D.*,

*Thirty-three Years a Missionary, first of the Reformed Presbyterian Church
of Scotland, and then of the Free Church of Scotland, in
New Zealand and the New Hebrides.*

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PREFACE.

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DR. JOHNSON says, "Every other author may aspire to praise; the lexicographer can only hope to escape reproach, and even this negative recompense has been yet granted to very few." If such were the depressing prospects under which our great lexicographer commenced his dictionary of the English language, one of the most extensively read and spoken on the face of the earth, what must be the feelings of him who undertakes to prepare a dictionary for a language spoken and read by one of the smallest of living communities? My encouragements, or rather my discouragements, are in one respect, however, the reverse of Dr. Johnson's. If the chances of praise are diminished, the dangers of reproach are correspondingly lessened; so that, as far as the writer's fame depends on the *subject* of the book, the difference in point of "negative recompense" will be all in my favour; there will be fewer to blame me.

Utility, not literary distinction, was my aim in preparing this Dictionary. My object was to have all the words in the language at my command while engaged in translating a part, and editing the whole, of the Aneityumese Bible,

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published by the British and Foreign Bible Society; and a small volume, published by the Religious Tract Society, containing the first part of the Pilgrim's Progress (abridged), a Hymnal, an Initiatory Catechism, and the Westminster Assembly's Shorter Catechism. The Dictionary contains all the words collected by the late Rev. Dr. Geddie, the Rev. Joseph Copeland, and myself. They are nearly five thousand in number. The first draft of the Grammar was made by the Rev. Thomas Powell, F.L.S., missionary of the London Missionary Society in Samoa, who in 1848 accompanied Mr. Geddie to the New Hebrides, and assisted him for a year in commencing the mission on Aneityum. About a twelvemonth ago Mr. Powell sent me a copy of the outlines which he drew up at that time, and which gives a fair view of the structure of the language.

The Grammar and Dictionary which I had thus prepared, I subsequently corrected and copied out for the press; and they are now printed, in the first place, for the benefit of the Mission, and, in the next place, as a small contribution to comparative philology. As the Aneityumese language belongs to a new family of tongues, the Papuan, comprising, perhaps, at least a hundred dialects or languages, and which are spoken from Fiji to Papua or New Guinea, and as a Grammar and Dictionary of only one of these, namely, that of Fiji, has been published, it appears to me that the publication of a Grammar and Dictionary of the Aneityumese language would be a contribution to this science from a quarter all but entirely new, and likely to be useful to those who are engaged in this interesting department of human knowledge. The Introduction was written with the view

of conveying to the minds of general readers some definite ideas respecting the more outstanding principles and peculiarities of the two great South Sea languages, the Malay and the Papuan, with special reference to that dialect of the Papuan spoken on Ancityum, and to relieve the book from the repulsive aspect of a dry vocabulary of new and unknown words. And I may safely say with the writer of the second book of Maccabees, "If I have done well, and as is befitting the *subject*, it is that which I desired; but if slenderly and meanly, it is that which I could attain unto."

"Sed verbum sat sapienti."

LINCUN COTTAGE, KIRKCOWAN, N.B.

January 14, 1882.



INTRODUCTION.



THE South Sea, or Pacific Ocean, is the largest on the face of the globe. It is in round numbers 7000 miles square. It is studded in all directions with islands and groups of islands; and, with a few trifling exceptions, they are all inhabited. All the natives of those islands belong to two, and only two, races of people—the Malay-Polynesian and the Papuan. If a line be drawn from the south-west point of New Zealand to the north-west point of the Sandwich Islands, it will pass between Fiji and the Tongan group: all the islands to the east of this line are peopled exclusively by Malays, and all the islands to the west of it, with slight exceptions, by the Papuans. The Malays are of Asiatic origin, evidently descendants of Shem; the Papuans are of African origin, evidently descendants of Ham. In personal appearance the two races are quite distinct; the Malays, in appearance and civilisation, are much superior to the Papuans. The Malays are copper-coloured, with smooth black hair; they are tall and well formed in person. They are evidently a much later migration than the Papuans. These latter are of a dirty-looking black, or coffee-and-milk colour, with crisp frizzled hair, varying in shade from black to yellowish and whitish. They are in general lower in stature and smaller in size than the Malays, though many of them are powerful, muscular, well-made men.

But while physically the Malays and the Papuans are per-