

lasted nearly 24 hours. Once I was almost sure we were going down, but the Lord kept us all from harm. We are enjoying ourselves in Sydney very much. It is such a nice change to see something of civilized life after an absence of over six years. We have been twice to the Exhibition but it would require a month to see it properly. On Monday last we, with Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie, spent the day with Rev. J. D. Murray and wife at Paramatta. We found Mrs. Murray better than we expected and quite resigned to the will of God in the partial loss of her eye-sight. Last Friday evening we spent at Rev. George Sutherland's. He has six children, some of them nearly grown up and has lately moved into a fine large house.

A. M. ANNAND.

#### LETTER FROM REV. J. W. MACKENZIE.

The following letter, dated at Sydney, N. S. W., 25th February, is addressed to the Sabbath-school of Shediak, N. S., but it has an interest for old people as well as young, and we heartily commend it for perusal to all our reader.—EDS.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,—I have to thank you most sincerely for your contribution of seven dollars and fifty cents, which came to hand through Dr. MacGregor a short time ago. It is very gratifying to find that your interest in the master's work on Efate continues. I am sure could you only realize what encouragement your sympathy gives us, to say nothing of how that sum has strengthened our hands, you would know well the meaning of the words "It is more blessed to give than to receive." No one is more in need of sympathy than a missionary, and no one can prize it more. I hope you also pray for us. Oh! how the thought that you were praying for us would cheer us in the dark hour. You must not suppose that we have no dark hours in the islands. It is not all sunshine with us. We often feel cast down. We toil on day after day and see so little fruit that at times we feel not a little discouraged. We don't find the heathen crying out "what must we do to be saved." Often their cry is "we don't want you." We tell them of a holy happy place; of a place of purity, peace and love, but to many of them such a place has no attractions. They delight in their fighting and their filth. But the thought that you are praying for us cheers us up afresh, it nerves us anew for the conflict, and by the blessing of God in our persevering efforts we feel assured that they will not be in vain.

But although, as I have been telling you, we at times feel discouraged, we have our

bright days too—yes, we have had some very bright ones. I venture to say that I have had deeper, more real joy than I could ever have experienced in any other walk in life. I believe I have felt happier in settling a teacher at a heathen village, which had for long years held out against the Gospel, than did ever a general in gaining a glorious victory. Will not some of you boys come and prove for yourselves what a blessed work it is? I am glad that God put it into my heart to give myself to it. I have now had several years experience, and I can sincerely tell you that nothing in this world would entice me away from it. I suppose you would like to know now, what I do with the money you send me. I will tell you. But first, I must try to give you an idea of our field of labour. We live on a small island called Eranyou; we find it healthier than the mainland, that is the reason we live there. The village, numbering over a hundred and twenty, is called Erakor. It was the first village of Efate to renounce heathenism and was professedly Christian for a number of years before we went there. Now if some of my young readers would like to accompany me to the different villages where we labour, you must suppose us dragging the indispensable canoe to the water's edge, and if you have no objections, I will do the paddling, for I have become, through long practice, quite expert at it. I told you that we are living on a small island, so I cannot go anywhere without paddling my own canoe. Steering in the direction of Pango we go about half a mile and reach the mainland. It is a shore village, but instead of keeping the shore and going round a long point, we strike across and have a good path all the way. A smart walk of thirty-five minutes brings us to the village. It numbers a little over ninety, and was the only other Christian village on this island when we settled here. We have a lime and wattled church, as well as at Erakor, and a small lime cottage where we spend a week occasionally. I preach here once a fortnight, and one of the most advanced church members conducts service on the alternate Sabbath.

The other Christian village is Eratap. It is also a shore village, but in an opposite direction from Pango, and twice as far away, with a population of about seventy. Before we came to the field and for several years after, the Eratap natives were very hostile. They are now very kind to us. You would not be long at their village, until you would have more food than you could carry away. I preach there every third Sabbath, and occasionally during the week. On the other Sabbaths, service is conducted by church members from Erakor. What a change the Gospel has wrought on the hearts of those poor