

EXTRACTS FROM THE FOREIGN
MISSION REPORT.

THE NEW HEBRIDES.

During the past year the New Hebrides islands were brought regularly within the circle of commercial countries by the establishment of a line of monthly steamers between Melbourne and Sydney, in Australia, and the principal islands of the group. The Australian United Steam Navigation Company a few years ago began running a fortnightly service from Sydney to Fiji, via New Caledonia, with every alternate steamer calling at one of the southernmost parts of the New Hebrides group. It was only necessary, in order to reach all the islands, to add to this an inter-island boat, that would call at all the Mission stations and connect with the steamer of the main line monthly at Ani-ganhat or Havana Harbour. The *Dayspring* Board entered into a contract with the steamship company for this purpose, and agreed to pay the company £1,500 stg. for the service rendered to the Mission in carrying passengers and goods from Melbourne or Sydney to their destination on the islands, or from the islands to either of these cities. Of this sum £150 stg. were contributed from our *Dayspring* Fund. This is the same amount that was formerly paid for our share of the support of the *Dayspring*, and is just our fair proportion of the expense, as we have one-sixth of the whole staff at present on the islands. This line of steamers is also subsidized as mail boats by the Government of New South Wales.

At present this arrangement is only an experiment. It is eagerly watched, in hopes of very beneficial results. It should add not a little to the comfort of the missionaries, as it gives them a regular monthly mail and rapid communication with the outside world. It should also do much to develop trade, by stimulating the natives to produce articles of export and thus help to bring the people under additional civilizing influences. Of course, the arrangement with the steamers made the services of the *Dayspring* unnecessary, and she has been chartered for other work for the present year; but she will not be disposed of till it is seen how the experiment with the steamers will turn out. She made two trips from Sydney to the islands; going on her return trip the last time to Dunedin, New Zealand. This detour considerably increased her expenses, but was thought to be in the interests of the Mission. There has been a good deal of interest in the Mission fostered and sustained by means of the *Dayspring* and previous Mission vessels. She has been a sort of visible emblem, par-

ticularly to the children, who have year by year collected and contributed to her support, of the Gospel. Peace working among the benighted idolaters. Their imaginations have painted bright pictures of her carrying the messengers of Life to the perishing and dying. If she is given up, we shall part with her with regret, for she has thrown something of poetry and romance about the work; but, at the same time, the monthly steamer will, we are convinced, do all ends much more perfectly.

The Mission Synod met in the Mission Church, Kwamera, Tanna, on the 28th of June. There were nine members in attendance. Of our own staff, only Mr. McKenzie was present, Mr. Robertson being absent on furlough and Mr. Annand detained in Santo, as he explained by letter to the Synod, on account of the illness at the time of his wife.

Last year was the jubilee of missionary effort in the New Hebrides. In November of 1889, the apostle of Polynesia, John Williams, gave his life in an endeavour to pioneer the gospel of Jesus Christ in these islands. The story of the work since then is one of thrilling interest, and every church that helped it forward has been highly honoured by her connection with the Mission. This is not the place to give the history, but some of the results may be stated. The whole of Aneityum has long been a Christian land; and now, at seventeen more stations, on different islands, there are many worshippers of the true God. There are eighteen missionaries and about 140 native teachers working on twenty of the islands. Concerning the fruit of their toil, for the last year reported, we cannot do better than quote the words of the Mission Synod:—

“Taking all things into consideration, very satisfactory progress has been made during the past year. The reports from the islands of Futuna and Tanna, these two fields on which the work has hitherto met with so much opposition, are especially interesting and cheering. It is encouraging also to note that the violent opposition of the people of Mele to the receiving of teachers, or other attempts to introduce the gospel, is breaking down. Steady progress has been made at Erakor, Nguna, Tongoa and Epi, and at the last mentioned station large numbers have been baptized and received into the communion of the church. There are some tokens of encouragement also at Malekula, where it was anticipated that the work would be of a peculiarly difficult nature; and at the two most northerly stations, Malo and Santo, the work is encouraging and hopeful. It is with peculiar delight and gratitude to God we place on record that