

There has, then, passed from our midst into his rest and reward, one of the many to be found in our congregation, who are the bone and sinew of our church, but whose Christian faith and works are only known to a limited circle. They work on without having their zeal fanned by the breath of applause, or quickened by the prospect of the seat of honour among their fellow-laborers. Their Christian activity spring from a realization of the claims of the Redeemer on their time and talents, and from a trust in His promise that the giving of a cup of cold water, in His name, shall be rewarded. To this worthy band of labourers in the vineyard of the Lord belonged Kenneth Nicolson. And while dropping a tear over his early grave, we can say, "Well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." J. A.

Wallace, 1st January, 1872.

Articles Selected.

(From the Home and Foreign Record,
P. C. L. P.)

Letter from Rev. Dr. Geddie.

ANEITEUM, NEW HEBRIDES, }
August 20th, 1871. }

REV. AND DEAR SIR—I beg to furnish you with an account of my late voyage among the islands. It was commenced in May, and ended in July, and occupied about seven weeks. The islands will be noticed in their geographical order, rather than the order in which they were visited. The "Dayspring" sailed from Aneiteum on May 22nd, and called at the following islands:

FUTUNA.

Our devoted missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Copeland, were well. The work, under their judicious management, advances steadily and surely. A marked change is visible in the external appearance of the people. Many are now clothed, and, we hope, sit at the feet of Jesus in their right minds. The great obstacle to the progress of Christianity at present is the deportation of natives. Many are already at work on the plantations in Queensland and the Fiji Islands. The last party of natives was taken away only a few weeks ago. A small schooner called at Tana, and engaged

there, as interpreter, a native of Aneiteum, who was banished from his own island for the murder of his wife, and other crimes. The vessel went to Futuna, and the interpreter engaged six natives to whale on the neighbouring island of Aneiteum for a few months. It is enough to say that the unsuspecting natives were never brought to this island, but were carried off to the Fijis, and will be compelled, no doubt, by bribes or threats to sign agreements binding them to servitude for a term of years. The man who seduced them exhibits a gem to the Tanese, which he says was given him as the reward of his services. The slaver had no name painted on her, but she is said to be the "Maria Douglas." A few natives who have recently been brought home from Queensland are also doing much injury to the cause on Futuna. They are endeavoring to persuade their fellow-countrymen that missionaries have come to gain possession of their land, and in due time disinherit them. Such is a specimen of Queensland teaching. I have only known a solitary instance in which heathen natives have returned from the latter colony with impressions favourable to Christianity, and these impressions are traceable to a native of the Loyalty Islands. It is different with those who go to the Fiji Islands. If they should happen to fall among the Christian natives, they wish the gospel on their own islands; and the Consul, who is evidently a Christian man, makes commendable efforts for the moral improvement of the natives. It was on Futuna where a white man from the Fijis endeavoured last year to instigate the natives to murder the missionary, by telling them what the Erromangans had done to the Gordons, and what the Fijians had done to Baker, and holding up these savages as models for imitation. May God protect His own work amidst the opposition which surrounds it.

TANA.

The mission families on this island had suffered from sickness during the hot and rainy season. The missionary work, under Messrs. Neilson and Watt, makes encouraging progress. The Tanese manifest more readiness to receive Christian instruction than in former years, and the missionaries are permitted to prosecute their labours without serious molestation. The whole island appears to be fast opening for the gospel.

At the time of our arrival at Port Resolution there were no less than four vessels in search of natives. The missionaries estimate that about 1200 have been taken from the Island to Queensland and the Fijis. The most of these are married and