

New Hebrides.

LETTER FROM REV. J. W. MAC-KENZIE.

BUNDANNON, NEW SOUTH WALES,
Feb. 3rd, 1888.

My Dear Mr. Scott:

Although it is summer here we are almost shivering with the cold, and Mrs. Mackenzie is wrapped up in a great thick shawl. In a few hours, however, the heat of the sun will be almost oppressive, so great is the difference away up here, between early morning and mid-day.

This is a fine place to come to when taking a change from the New Hebrides. It is over 2000 ft. above the level of the sea, and the air is very bracing. The distance is about ninety miles from Sydney, on the line to Melbourne. We were three weeks in Sydney, but did not feel much benefited by our stay there. The heat was almost as great as in the islands, and the hot winds they have there occasionally are very oppressive.

It was a very gay city all last week. They were celebrating

THE HUNDREDDTH BIRTH-DAY

of the colony, so nothing was spared that money and labour could do to make their Centennial a success. Of course we saw nothing of it all, for we came up here the very day the festivities commenced. They had illustrious visitors from all parts of this Southern Hemisphere, among whom were Sir Henry Loch, Gov. of Victoria; Sir William Jervois, Gov. of New Zealand; Sir Anthony Musgrave, Gov. of Queensland; Sir William Robinson, Gov. of South Australia; Sir Robert Hamilton, Gov. of Tasmania, and Sir Fredrick Broome, Gov. of Western Australia. The present Gov. of this colony, (New South Wales) Lord Carrington, is very popular.

The growth of Australia and the development of her resources have been marvellous. The population is now about four millions. There is no doubt a great future before Australia, but it is unfortunate that there is such a spirit of jealousy between this colony and Victoria as to prevent any hope of federation of the colonies at least for a time.

As we are entitled to a furlough this year, we felt it to be our duty to take it. We were both, but especially Mrs. Mac-

kenzie, needing a change. Then, as you can imagine, we were anxious to see our daughter, whom we had not seen for five long years.

ANOTHER TRIAL BEFORE US NOW

is that we must leave our eldest boy Norman and perhaps Morrison too at school.

We intend returning to our station in April. I hope to take back with me a thousand copies of a translation of the "Peep of Day," made by some

HALF DOZEN OF OUR ERAKOR BOYS,

who have been studying English for three or four years. It is now in the printers hands. One of these boys—Soppe—is very bright, and gives promise of being an excellent teacher. Several years ago I received a contribution from "The Happy Workers" of Prince Street, Church Pictou, to be expended as I saw fit. Soppe was a poor little orphan, and as he was such a smart little fellow it occurred to me that a good way to lay out that money would be to pay some one to take charge of him, and keep him at school. This I did for two years. But as he was getting on so well I did not care to part with him, especially as he was so anxious to remain, so I kept him on at my own expense, and he has been attending school along with the young men I have been training for teachers. Could those young ladies who so kindly sent the contribution, see how nicely Soppe has transcribed his part of the translation. I think they would feel satisfied that it was well expended. In my absence he is assisting in the school at Fila.

When we left the field the missionaries and their families were all well, with the exception of Mr. Annand, who had an attack of Sciatica.

NEW MISSIONARIES.

I am glad to hear that there is a prospect of two new missionaries going to the group this year from Victoria, and a third from New Zealand, to take up Mr. Murray's station on Aubrim. I also heard since I came to Sydney that the Free Church are to send out a missionary to take Mr. Neilson's place. That church has only two in the field at present. Thus you see our prospects are bright. I trust that at no distant day the whole group will be fully occupied.

It is very gratifying to see the kindly interest taken by a few private individuals