

more than ten miles from Cape Lisburne. A native of Espiritu Santo who is acquainted on that island offered to accompany us if these men would go also. I sent for them and offered every inducement to come and introduce us to their island, but they did not make their appearance. They were desirous to go home, but they would not trust themselves with us. Their chief and a number of their countrymen had been stolen some time previous by a slaver, and they were afraid that they might share a similar fate. No persuasion of their Santo friends could induce them to come near us.

The objects of our voyage being so far accomplished, we returned home. The state of the weather prevented us from calling at other Islands which we had intended to visit this year. There is much in the present aspect of these islands to invite Christian effort on them. The Macedonian cry is heard on some of them at least, "Come over and help us." There is an opening at present on this group for six or seven missionaries, and for many times that number of native teachers.

The most formidable obstacle to the missionary work at present is the slave trade. The extent to which natives are now fraudulently and forcibly carried off by the Australian and Fiji slavers is exasperating these islanders, and exciting prejudices against white men which exposes missionaries as well as others to dangers. Our hope for these islands is that the infamous traffic in human beings, which has so boldly, so suddenly, and so unexpectedly sprung up on them, will come to a speedy end. It seems incredible that the Christianity and civilisation of the nineteenth century can long tolerate so flagrant a violation of the laws of God, and so cruel an outrage on the most sacred rights of man. We would ask the friends of missions to unite their influence in opposing an evil which is demoralising to those who are engaged in it, as it is cruel and unjust to the natives who are its victims.

The injuries inflicted on these islanders by men of our own country, colour, and tongue, gives them an additional claim on our Christian sympathy. The gospel is the best remedy which we can give them for their temporal as well as spiritual evils. May the churches pledged to their evangelization put forth every effort to rescue these islanders from the bondage of error, superstition, and sin, and to save them from the cruel vassalage of their fellow-men.

JOHN GEDDIE.

Aneiteum, New Hebrides, }
December 20, 1869. }

New Hebridean Sketch.

No. VIII.

MR. EDITOR,—

I do not end my sketches with this article because the subject is finished, nor yet that I have exhausted my knowledge of the Pacific Isles, for really I have only given the merest outline of the glories of those New Hebridean, green, sun-lit islands.— But although I delight to write, read, and speak of those islands, still there must be a considerable change take place in my mind before I again write for the *Record*. However, I do not think the friends of the mission will have much cause to regret the discontinuance of my sketches. I will simply write of the fruits and vegetables of the New Hebrides, and nothing else. First, then, let me give you the names of the fruits, and also state what they taste and look like.

BREAD-FRUIT.

The tree on which this fruit grows is almost exactly like our ash, and quite, as large. The wood is soft, and in colour of a dark-red shade. The fruit grows like apples on the tree, and each as large as a child's head, and some even as large as a man's. The tree yields two crops in the year; and when the fruit is roasted for five minutes it is then fit for eating, and in taste is much like good pound-cake.

COCOANUT.

This fruit is in season all the year round, and the tree grows to the length of sixty feet, without a branch, and then at its top grow out magnificent, long, feathery branches, giving great beauty and grace to the tree. The milk of the young cocoanut is very much like nice sweet cream.

ORANGES

Grow on a tree something like our hard beech-tree, and on this tree you have the blossom, unripe and ripe fruit, all at the same time. The perfume of the blossom is very fragrant.

PINE-APPLE.

This fruit grows on a thistle-like, shaggy shrub, about two feet from the ground. By planting the top stalk of the apple, propagation is secured. Remove the rind