

LATEST FROM REV. DR. ANNAND.

Tangoa, Santo, New Hebrides. ;

Dear Mr. Scott,

The turning of the year, as with you at home, brings its special work and cares, and even more than with you its memories and reflections, for we are so far removed from friends and kin.

About the beginning of November we were visited with a severe kind of influenza. It attacked almost every one on the station. The coughing some days in school was anything but edifying. Upon some of our number it settled in a more serious form. An infant of three weeks, a daughter of one of our students, was the first to succumb. A week later a child in the village passed away.

The Story of William.

The next day one of our students died after seventeen days' illness. His case was a very sad one. His father became the first Christian on his own island, and William was baptized in childhood. He, when a lad, to escape the restraints of home life and to see something of the world recruited for Queensland. Instead of returning to his home when his term of service was ended, he remained a time in the colony and then engaged as one of a boat's crew on a labor vessel.

While associating with heathen he learned to reverence their fetishes. To protect himself from the bullets and spears of the savages he bought a small sacred stone from an Ambrim man in Queensland for the sum of five pounds ten shillings sterling. This he carried with him everywhere and as he escaped all dangers he gave his fetish the credit thereof.

Finally returning to his own island, where all were then Christians, he also made a profession of faith and was received into church fellowship. Soon after that he and some others came away to the Training Institution. For a time he gave us some trouble here but eventually he settled down to good work. Apparently he was greatly improved, and he joined the evangelistic workers and took an active part in their labors.

Before his death we learned to our surprise that he had never thrown away his fetish; but that he had even carried it with him for protection when going out to speak to the bushmen. When taken seriously ill he hid it somewhere. His death under such painful circumstances cast a gloom over our whole company.

Deeds of Darkness.

Then in some parts of the inland districts the enemy is remarkably active. Two murders have been committed within a fortnight. A man who is unpleasantly known at this station lately shot a man and cut-

ting up his body he exchanged the pieces for pigs.

The Bright Side.

On the other hand, as compensation for the cares and sorrows connected with the foregoing, we have had the great joy of seeing all the people of Tangoa, and also some of those of Abinaus and Araki, breaking from their old heathen ways and placing themselves under instruction. The old village of Tangoa is being deserted and thirteen new houses are now going up on a new site near to Mr. Bowie's church. The new life is to be started amid new surroundings. Even the chief, whom few expected to see join us, is now working industriously at his new house.

The last Tangoan heathen, to escape the persistent entreaties and prayers of our workers, fled to Malo. Some of the bushmen who are appealing in vain for teachers to settle among them have sent two of their lads here to be taught the gospel so that they may carry it back to their people. Some of our people, both men and women, are engaged every evening in teaching the new pupils.

Our Students and their Work.

In the end of November three more of our students completed their four years' course of study and returned to their homes on Malo. In December two others finished their term here. Thus the number of our students has fallen to seventy-two.

Our student evangelists are still actively engaged in urging the heathen to accept the life offered in the gospel. There have been only two accessions to the Christian party since my November letter. One old man, who had promised to come over, has not kept to his word, because, he says, that the devil is pulling him back more strongly than our lads are drawing him towards the Saviour.

Our Holiday Season.

The Christmas vacation with its anticipated pleasures and its two weeks' holidays gave joyful activity to all our young people. Great preparations for these glad days were made. Who does not enjoy a holiday after long months of labor? Good work brings real happiness, but brief rest and recreation are necessary to lessen the friction in life's movements.

With ourselves one of the joys was that the steamer bringing our mails and stores from Sydney was about due. It is a great pleasure to receive our letters and supplies on the eve of our holidays, and to see fresh stores coming in as the old stock becomes nearly exhausted. To have the latest word from loved ones far away, and two months' fresh news of the world to peruse during our resting time is happiness only to be known by experience.