

once contributed \$50, and the work was proceeded with. The new building was opened Nov. 17th. It contains a comfortable school room and accommodation for the teacher and his family. The whole cost of the building and furniture was \$315. The subjoined accounts show how this has been met. Mr. Jones at first agreed to pay the full salary of the teacher, namely, \$14 per month. But after the first quarter he intimated that on account of the pressure of the times he could not continue to pay more than \$10 per month. This leaves in the meantime, \$4 per month to be provided for this school. John Kantoo, of Iere Village, is teacher of this school, and has given much satisfaction.

2. Exchange School was opened July 1st. A suitable school room and teacher's room were provided by John Cumming, Esq., proprietor of Exchange and Camden Estates who also pays the teacher's salary in full. Henry Juraman also of Iere has charge of this school.

This school together with those of Esperanza and Sevilla Estates will be handed over to Mr. Christie. From their distance they were a source of constant anxiety to me. The presence of Mr. Christie in the district will, no doubt, benefit them much.

#### RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

has been given to the children of all these schools during the week as well as on Sunday. The Esperanza children had special religious instruction on Saturday, to leave the teacher free to hold meetings among the adults on Sabbath. About a dozen of the more advanced of the "Ne Plus Ultra" children attended the San Fernando Sabbath School, and were taught by Mrs. Morton. One of these boys was baptized on the last Sabbath of the year, and others will likely be baptized soon. Something has been done by all the teachers in the way of holding meetings among the adults.

Young men, some baptized and others not as yet even candidates for baptism, have been in the habit of coming for instruction in the evening. These have had lessons in reading the Scriptures whenever they came, by one or other of your missionaries; or by their wives.

Practically for some months the inspection of Ne Plus Ultra and Jordan Hill Schools has been undertaken by Mrs. Morton, who accompanied me and inspected these schools, while I went to instruct the adults.

All the baptisms were celebrated in the San Fernando Church, and I leave Mr. Grant to report the number for the whole field during the year.

Sooden's health has not been good lately. One of his lungs is almost inactive, and he suffers from fever, which, if attended

with congestion of the lungs, might cut him off suddenly. He ought to have a change of air and work. And we think it would be for the good of the mission to appoint him catechist. Indeed I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without expressing the strong conviction that the time has come when the Church should authorize the appointment, and undertake the support of two native Catechists.

We close the year looking back over its trials and difficulties with thankfulness that so many of them have passed away, with praise to God for undeserved tokens of His goodness, and we look forward with hope and confidence sobered by the prudence which past experience has taught us. We rejoice at the coming of Mr. Christie, and trust he will reach us in safety.

We believe that the mission has advanced during the year, and have confidence that it will continue to advance. But we would not draw any fancy picture. There are many difficulties to be overcome which only labour and time, with the blessing of God can overcome, and we ask anew the hearty spiritual co-operation which the Church can give us by earnest prayer.

I cannot close this report without referring to the accounts, and noting with thankfulness the large amount of pecuniary aid which this mission has received here during the year, particularly in the support of schools. Apart from the value of school houses proprietors now contribute \$122 per month as salaries of teachers. Nearly \$200 additional have been contributed, principally by the people of Port of Spain and San Fernando. These are facts which the Church ought not to lose sight of.

From Nova Scotia we acknowledge also with thankfulness, a legacy from the late Thomas McLean, and another from the late Mrs. McDonald of Barney's River, for the benefit of this mission; and \$17 from unknown donors, through Rev. George Patterson.

Respectfully submitted,  
JOHN MORTON.

#### NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

Letter from Rev. J. D. Murray.

ANEITYUM, Dec. 26th, 1873.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—As a vessel is expected to sail from this port for Noumea, New Caledonia, to-morrow, I avail myself of the opportunity of sending you a few lines.

#### HEALTH.

My wife and I have enjoyed tolerably good health, since I last wrote to you; that is to say, since the "Paragon" left here for Sydney, in September last. *Parvulus filius* George, however, has been suffering very