

## INCIDENTS FROM THE NEW HEBRIDES

LETTER FROM REV. DR. ANNAND.

Tonga Santo, Dec. 21, 1898.

DEAR RECORD:—

Our work is in a very hopeful state. Students and teachers are enjoying good health. Duties are cheerfully performed, and a fine spirit now prevails.

Last month we had to expel two students, one for trying to unsettle the minds of his fellows the other for persistent disobedience. The discipline has had a very beneficial influence upon the whole of the students. Doubtless the near approach of the Christmas holidays also helps to put some of our lads on their good behavior; as they know that favors will not come to those who do not conduct themselves in a becoming manner.

The anticipation of two weeks' release from routine toil gladdens the hearts of all. The Christmas season has thus far been our only vacation in the year, hence it is very highly appreciated.

We believe, however, that a more powerful reason, than either, or both of those given above, is influencing our students. The Spirit of God is working among them.

On the 11th instant we had our half-yearly communion service, which was to us all a soul refreshing season. We were much pleased with the becoming conduct of our people. Nearly all of them seemed to realize the solemnity of the occasion. Nicodemus-like, many of them came by night to enquire more perfectly concerning the way. Several asked me to write appropriate prayers for them to use in preparation for the supper.

One lad came in one evening, after the curfew bell had rung, to confess that some time previously he had, when angry about something, killed one of our chickens, and thrown it away out of sight. Little things like that indicated the feeling prevailing among them.

The only two lads, who were not before church members, were at this time received into fellowship. About ninety of us sat down at the Lord's table.

A few bushmen, who had never seen a baptism, or a communion service, were present as spectators. They were deeply interested in all that was done. The contrast between our feast and their heathen festivals must have left its impression upon their minds.

Early yesterday morning the "Victoria," a 1350 tons steamer, came in, bringing to us Miss Symonds B. A. She will be a most valuable

helper in the work of training our students. We are very glad and thankful that she has arrived, as assistance was much needed here.

Lately there has been some trouble among the people attending our vegetable market. There have been two murders, and last week a number of those usually at the market were away cooking a man. This last murder has prevented one section of the bushmen from coming to the market place, as their enemies also appear there.

The cause of this murder is the old story, stealing a woman. Some years ago this latest victim stole a woman and cleared out to another village, where he was allowed to live for years in peace.

At a festival an opportunity for revenge came, and the usual bush custom was followed, and the man was not only killed but devoured.

However this custom is gradually withdrawing from the districts where the gospel is proclaimed. The light is beginning to penetrate the gloom of Santo's hill country. Teachers are now asked for by a number of villages, and we trust that before long even these bushmen may be found clothed, and in their right minds, sitting at the feet of our blessed Redeemer.

## LETTER FROM REV. DR. MORTON.

Tunapuna, Feb. 28, 1899.

For the RECORD.

This is the dry season, when mission buildings have to be erected or repaired, and new districts explored or revisited.

Sabbath, the 26th inst., I spent at Las Lomas, in the woods, eleven miles away—seven miles by waggon and four on horseback.

This district is occupied, to a considerable extent, by East Indians. The chief cultivation is cocoa which is very suitable for small holders.

Readers of my Report for 1898 may remember that it was the people of this settlement, who (with but little help from our funds), erected for themselves a small church.

At the time of my visit, and within a mile, a Hindu sacrifice, was being offered on account of a recent death. Notwithstanding this, our church was well filled. The service consisted of first, a thanksgiving for freedom from famine, plague, war, hurricane, etc.; second, a Baptismal Service when two adults were baptized; third, Communion Service. There were nine communicants four men and their wives, and one aged man whose wife is not a communicant.

Though the whole service occupied two and a half hours, the attention never flagged.

After service I had to examine the young peo-