

NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

Extract of Letter from Mr. Annand.

The following extracts from private letters of Mr. and Mrs. Annand, written to relatives at Gays River, will be read with interest by our readers.

FROM MR. ANNAND.

June 20th, 1881.

Mr. A. says: As regards ourselves we are still happy and in the midst of blessings. Another rainy season has passed since I last wrote you. We had two hurricanes but neither of them were very heavy. The first one came on the 22nd Dec. and caught the Day Spring in our harbor, but she rode it out beautifully. The passengers, the Milnes and McKenzies, were on shore with us for nearly a week at that time. There were terrible floods in the streams and in some places landslides which destroyed much food, and in the Iriwayipthaw Valley three lives were lost. The second hurricane came in March but it did not do very much damage. However, the two have destroyed a good deal of the crop of the island. The arrowroot will be small again this year from that cause.

We enjoyed very fair health through the season. I was laid aside nearly a fortnight with a sore knee. I hurt it a little and a boil formed and as it began to discharge erysipelas set in and for ten days I could not walk. However, it got completely well in a few weeks and I have had excellent health since. Mrs. A. had a little fever for a week or two but is also now in good health. The past season was a very unhealthy one among the natives on this isle, although there was not much above the average number of deaths.

We had our annual Synod meeting in the last week in May, at our Station. We had the brethren all on shore with us and a most pleasant time we had. It was the smallest meeting we have had for many years. Only six missionaries present and two ladies, Mrs. Annand and Mrs. Laurie.

Mr. Holt is leaving the mission. Mr. Copeland has resigned, and Mr. Paton goes up to Victoria now and will not likely return as Mrs. Paton is not able to stand island life and climate.

FROM MRS. ANNAND.

Mrs. Annand also writes at the same date as follows:

We are working along among our people, at times feeling very much cast down at the deadness which prevails amongst the most of them. Again we are cheered at some little signs of life.

I will tell you about an old woman's love for the Word of God. One morning Nadcare came to me in great distress, saying, "O missie, I have broken my spectacles and I cannot see to read my Bible. What shall I do?" I told her there was only one pair left and that I did not know whether they would suit her or not. I got them and she put them on and took up her Bible to ascertain if she could see to read it. She found that she could, and exclaimed: "I can again see to read it," and taking the spectacles off she kissed them two or three times. This is the woman whom Mrs. Geddie many years ago saved from being strangled upon the death of her husband. You know that in their heathen days here it was the custom when a man died that his wife was strangled so that she might accompany him to the Spirit Land to wait upon him there.

Poor Nadcare is said to have been very angry with Mrs. Geddie at the time for saving her. It was considered a great disgrace not to be strangled. As soon as a girl was given to a man to be his wife she put a string around her neck and wore it just as we wear a marriage ring. I often think that their lives must have been lives of terror.

Letter from the New Hebrides.

The following is an extract of a letter from Mr. Watt, of Tanna:

"Our meeting of Synod this year was an usually small one, but the reports from all the stations were particularly encouraging. For a time it always seemed as if the work on this group had come to a standstill; but latterly, year after year, we have been encouraged by reports of progress. The mission has made a great stride forward since I joined it in 1869. Our friends in Aneityum are getting the *kava* rooted out and burned. Their *kava* pledge has been signed by a considerable number. The evil had grown of late to an extent of which I daresay even you had no idea.

More than twenty years ago the *kava* was all rooted out in Aneityum, and the drinking of this pernicious intoxicant was completely stopped; something like a Maine Liquor Law prevailed for many