

tend the publication of his Japanese Dictionary. This is a work upon which he has been engaged ever since his arrival in this country. We all feel satisfaction as it approaches its completion, and look forward to its publication, when we will have this help in our studies, and when Dr. Hepburn will be free to undertake other labours. Dr. and Mrs. Hepburn will leave for Shanghai in a few days, and will be absent some months.

I have been employed during the greater part of the year much as hitherto. The Sabbath service in English has been kept up. The Government school also was maintained till quite recently. My labors in the school occupied a considerable part of my time, especially during the absence of Mr. Ballagh in San Francisco. Some time ago we saw reason to discontinue our labors in the school, and now quite a number of the most promising pupils, and others, receive instruction at our rooms. We see no reason as yet to regret the step we have taken, and believe that it will result in good, both to the cause of missions and of education.

Besides teaching and labors on the Sabbath, I have given my attention to the study of the language, and have translated, imperfectly, some of the historical books of the Old and New Testament.

This sketch will enable you to estimate the progress we have made during the year, and what are our capabilities for time to come. At the close of this year we feel more hopeful than formerly. This arises in part from our greater knowledge of the people, and of their language, and in part, from the fact that we are regarded with less hostility than formerly. Changes are also going on in the internal affairs of this nation. The Tycoon has recently died, and hopes are entertained that a man more friendly to foreign intercourse will be chosen in his stead. As yet we cannot tell what will be the result of the war with Choshu, but trust that Providence will overrule all to the ultimate good of this land.

Sincerely yours,

D. THOMPSON.

THE NEW HEBRIDES.

Some time ago a good deal of attention was directed to the proceedings which took place, in connection with the visit of a British war vessel to the New Hebrides, and a good deal of blame was cast upon the missionaries for invoking the aid of British power. The following article from the pen of the Rev. J. O. Dykes, formerly colleague of Dr. Candlish, but now in Australia, gives a new view of the proceedings in question.

THE CURACOA IN THE SOUTH SEAS.

“By unfriendly or neutral papers here, and still more in New South Wales, a prejudice against the New Hebridean Mission has been industriously spread in connection with the recent visit to the islands of H.M.S. Curacoa. Probably there are also many friends to the mission who, in ignorance or misconception of the circumstances, have accepted the current representation, and formed from it an unfavourable opinion. Nothing is more easy than to create on the public mind a hazy impression that something or somebody is to blame; and however unfounded such an impression may be, there is nothing more difficult to remove. The best defence for the missionaries in the present case is to be found in the plain facts of the story. These were brought before last General Assembly in the speech of the Rev. A. J. Campbell, convener of the Heathen Mission Committee, and have again and again been given to the public through other channels; but to this day they do not appear to be sufficiently