

New Debrides.

LETTER FROM REV. J. W. MAC-KENZIE.

BUNDANNON, NEW SOUTH WALES.
Jan. 31st, 1888.

Dear Mr. Morrison :

I dare say you will be somewhat surprised to receive a letter from me with the above heading. Although entitled to a furlough this year it was not our intention until a few months ago to leave our station till next year. But as Mrs. McKenzie's health has not been at all good for some time, we thought it better to take a change while we have the opportunity. By delaying another year we might be compelled to take a longer furlough than would be desirable. I am thankful to say that after being a week or two under medical treatment in Sydney, and having spent a week in this cool, bracing climate Mrs. McKenzie feels very much better.

We left our station about the beginning of December, and owing to light, head winds had a tedious passage to Erromanga. Spent a very pleasant Sunday at Dillon's Bay. Found Mr. and Mrs. Robertson and their two children just recovering from an attack of influenza, which was an epidemic on that side of the island. Just as we were ready to sail on Monday evening the mate of the "Dayspring" met with an accident which prevented us from getting away till the following morning.

Mr. R. was sending his boat to Sydney for repairs, and as they were taking it on board it came down on the mate's foot crushing it badly.

At Weasisi, the next station South, we took on board Mr. and Mrs. Gray and their three children, who have left their station for a year to visit their friends in South Australia.

During the rest of our voyage South to Aneityum we had high winds and a very rough sea, and right glad we were to get safely to anchor in Anelcauhat Harbor, Aneityum. Our good Captain was anxious to get away out of the group as the rainy season was drawing on, so we only spent one night with our friends Mr. and Mrs. Laurie.

There is a saw mill on that island owned by a Company in Sydney. I ordered a small house of two rooms, which I intend on my return erecting on Fila. That is

one of our most important villages, and as we spend a good part of our time there we do not think it advisable to live, as we have been doing, in a grass hut. It will cost over twenty pounds.

We had a fine run from Aneityum to Sydney. Arrived on the ninth day.

New Year's I felt quite proud of our little vessel. She did a grand year's work, made two trips to the islands, going all the way from Aneityum to Santo each trip, and calling at all the intervening stations going and returning, and settled three missionaries.

Through the kindness of a very dear friend of the mission, Mr. Anderson of the Royal Mint, Sydney, we have found a boarding house in a nice country place ninety miles from Sydney. Our object in coming here is two-fold, health and cheapness. We pay for board four pounds sterling per week, and the climate is all that we could desire. It is our intention to remain here till about the middle of March, when we must return to Sydney to order our supplies, so that we may go down to the islands in April.

The mission goods sent us last year have proved rather expensive. I was not a little surprised to find that I am charged in Dr. Steel's account with me, £19 10s. sterling, (nineteen pounds, ten shillings) for cases from Halifax. This is enormous. I only received three cases in all, and I do not think the one from Truro is included in this.

Now these cases for the most part contained made up garments for our school children, but when at our children's festival we were distributing them right and left I was not aware that they were receiving a present which was such a draft on my salary. Dr. Steele himself was amazed at it and could only account for it by supposing it was owing to the expensive route by which the case had come, the P. & O. Line.

I remain yours sincerely,

J. W. MCKENZIE.

LETTER FROM REV. J. W. MACKENZIE.

NEW SOUTH WALES, March 19, '88.

Dear Mr. Morrison :

I wrote you by last mail and enclosed a report of the work at our station. Received your favor a few days ago, also statement of accounts.