

CAPTAIN FRASER.

It was felt to be simply an act of justice to Captain Fraser to raise his salary from £150 to £200 a-year. Moreover, as he has been now four years in the service of the Mission, the missionaries felt desirous to express their individual appreciation of his services by presenting him with some personal testimonial. Accordingly the brethren of both missions agreed to contribute ten shillings each; and they appointed the three missionaries who are proceeding to the colonies, to purchase some suitable article for a testimonial and present to Captain Fraser, in the name of the brethren of the two missions. This year, as formerly, the missionaries have been highly satisfied with the obliging disposition and exemplary conduct of both the officers and crew of the *Dayspring*. Captain Fraser has always displayed great care in the selection of his men.

LOYALTY ISLANDS.

The Annual Meeting of the Loyalty Islands Mission was held in October, on Wea. All the missionaries were present, also a deputation from the New Hebrides Mission. At this meeting, as well as at the New Hebrides meeting, a minute was passed to the effect, that, while deeply sympathising with the London Missionary Society on account of the loss of the *John Williams*, it is respectfully suggested for the consideration of the Directors, whether, in the altered circumstances of the times, it would not be a more economical arrangement, as well as in many respects more suitable, to have a smaller vessel, say of about 150 tons, to be employed exclusively for their missions in Eastern Polynesia, leaving their missions in Western Polynesia to be served solely by the *Dayspring*.

Mr. M'Farlane obtained leave for himself and his family to visit the colonies this year. Among other objects Mr. M'Farlane was appointed by the meeting to bring the claims of the *Dayspring* before the Congregational Churches in Australia.

RESTRICTIONS OF THE FRENCH

On the Loyalty islands the mission is steadily advancing. Both on Mare and Lifu there is an institution for the training of native teachers on both islands. The restrictions imposed by the French have been considerably relaxed. On Mare, Messrs Creagh and Jones have finished the revision of the New Testament, and Mr. Jones has been appointed to proceed to England to carry a new edition through the press. He and his family, as well as Mr. M'Farlane and his family, go up to Sydney in the *Dayspring*. On Lifu, Messrs M'Farlane and Sleigh have nearly completed the translation of the New Testa-

ment. On Wea, Mr. and Mrs. Ella have been prosecuting their labours with great diligence and much encouragement, notwithstanding very formidable difficulties. On Wea, Romanism has been exceedingly active and bitter. The Protestant chiefs have been deposed, and Popish chiefs of inferior rank have been raised to the chief authority, and the Protestants have been persecuted and annoyed in every possible way; but in the face of all this the half of the population are Protestant, and their numbers are still increasing. An elegant and commodious mission-house and church attest at once the skill and diligence of the missionary, and the hearty attachment of the converts. Many pressing invitations have come across to the missionaries on the Loyalty Islands from the natives of New Caledonia for missionaries and teachers; but every application on the part of the brethren there to be allowed to comply with these invitations has been met by a firm denial on the part of the French authorities. The Earl of Shaftesbury, in his opening address at the Annual Meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in May last, said he was anxious to impress upon their minds the debt they owed to the Imperial Government for the large amount of liberty and privilege which had been accorded to them in connection with the "Hall to be devoted to religious purposes, based upon a Protestant foundation. Everything has been done," he said, "that can do honour to religious liberty." The illustrious Guizot said to him in private, and also in his public discourse, "This is the greatest triumph of religious liberty that has been achieved in Europe for the last two centuries." But, alas! New Caledonia is far from Paris. Religious liberty, though strong at the centre of the empire, is still feeble at the extremities. Here, at the antipodes, it is Rome, not France, that is supreme; it is the spirit of the Vatican, and not of the Tuileries, that is the moving power; it is the policy of Antonelli, not of Napoleon III., that is still in the ascendant. But of this we are certain, it will not be so always. "A king shall reign in righteousness," "Jesus shall reign wh'er the sun" etc.

DIFFICULTIES OF THE NEW HEBRIDES MISSION. CLIMATE.

But the New Hebrides Mission has perhaps still graver difficulties to contend with. There is, first, the climate. It is, so far as we know, the least healthy of any group of islands in these seas on which missionaries have been established. If the laws of life are very carefully attended to, a fair average measure of health may be enjoyed, but these laws cannot be trifled with as they may be elsewhere. There is in general nothing specially deadly in the climate: it kills by