

SUICIDE.

There is a case in point which occurred this day week, a very sad case it is but it will give you an idea of the kind of people we have to deal with on Aneityum. One of Mr. Laurie's leading men, an elder in the church and about 60 years of age, lost his fifth wife some time ago. He wished a sixth one, a nephew's widow, but many of the leading men opposed their marriage. A good deal of ill feeling arose on both sides, thus matters went on until last Monday morning. After the prayer-meeting held following the communion Sabbath, the elders remained with Mr. Laurie to try and get the dispute settled. After a good deal of talk it was decided against the marriage. That afternoon the disappointed man and another man, a friend of his, dressed themselves and took an old canoe and went to sea and have not since been heard of. It is generally believed from all the circumstances of the case that they both wilfully drowned themselves, the disappointed elder and his friend.

Mrs. Annand unites with me in wishing you all every needed blessing for your happiness in this world and in the world to come.

I am, yours most faithfully,
JOSEPH ANNAND.

Letter from Rev. H. A. Robertson.

Eromanga, New Hebrides, July 1st, '81.
Dear Dr. McGregor:—

The *Dayspring* passed by Dillon's Bay yesterday on her way from Fate to Aniwa and may be at anchor here by Sabbath—that is two days hence. She will have Mr. Paton and family on board for Melbourne who are leaving the mission. Here she will take on board Mr. Holt and family also going to Melbourne. They have been staying with us for seven weeks. The Synod decided to send the *Dayspring* to Melbourne this trip instead of to Sydney, her headquarters, as Mr. Paton and family with their stuff would in that case be landed comfortably at Melbourne without the trouble of transhipment at Sydney.

Before Daylight, Monday morning }
July 4th, 1881.

The *Dayspring* appeared yesterday morning off our bay and did not succeed in getting up to the anchorage. We expect her this morning; so I began my note before it is day fearing that if the vessel came in early I would not get a note to you this time at all. Mrs. Robertson has been suffering with fever since

February and is no better yet, and for some time she has been pretty busy as we have had Mr. and Mrs. Holt, of *Api*, and their two children living with us, and though we were pleased to have them yet Mrs. R. has had more to do those seven weeks than had we been alone.

I had hoped to have prepared for you and the Board my report, read to the Synod, but must now keep it until the end of the year.

In brief, allow us to thank through you all the kind friends who contributed to the mission boxes sent us this year or rather received by us this year. They were exceedingly opportunistic, and we desire to thank our kind friends in Nova Scotia and P. E. Island for the continued liberality in sending us so much homespun and calico both of which are so valuable to our Eromangan mission. I could not make out from the marks on the goods in every parcel who were the contributors, but in so far as I made out the names I will, in December, write to those friends specially. But for the present I beg most heartily to thank all and every one for their great kindness. I think I need not mention to you that the missionary of a large island like this one, where the people are taking the Word, has an expensive field, and that we cannot get on without a considerable quantity of clothing, whether to give it to the heathen chiefs and young men coming in or give it in exchange for native food, or assistance in keeping up mission buildings and fences. Well, though we buy a large amount of barter, such as axes, knives, shirts, pants, calico by the yard, soap, fish-hooks, &c. &c., yet all that is not sufficient to tide us over the year, and the *mission boxes* from Christian friends and warm friends of the mission come in to supplement that which is lacking. Besides what you kindly send from Nova Scotia, "the Ladies Missionary Society" in Sydney send all the missionary's wives annually a valuable parcel of new goods, and this year we received a small parcel from the Dorcas Society of Dr. Steel's congregation, St. Stephens, Sydney.

All the articles you sent were most valuable and suitable, but none more so than the *homespun*. It is especially useful in the Eromangan and Aneityum mission and from my other note written to you last week you will see that it is beginning to be highly appreciated also on Tana, but the Scotch missionaries have always been liberally supplied with mission goods from Scotland and New Zealand which has made it easy for them. H. A. R.