

they pronounced the Captain and mate entirely free from blame; hence there will be no difficulty about receiving the £2,000 insurance.

The *Dayspring* Board have decided to charter a schooner for nine months, to take supplies, &c., to the Mission field. There may be some difficulty in getting a vessel; but we hope to sail for the islands inside of a month from this time.

The hurricane did a large amount of damage to the Mission premises, and destroyed about three months' supply of native food. There is little other news of importance from the islands.

Mrs. Goodwill and child came up with the *Dayspring* crew. All the Mission families are well.—Mrs. Copeland lost a child lately.

I have many things to say, but I am so hurried now that I must draw to a close.

We were very sorry to learn, on our arrival in Melbourne, that Dr. Geddie had passed to his rest. The news would reach Nova Scotia about the time we got it.

Faithfully yours,
JOSEPH ANNAND.

Letter from Rev. James D. Murray.

ANELCAUHAT, ANEITYUM, }
NEW HEBRIDES, Feb. 10th, 1873. }

My Dear Sir,—I gladly embrace the opportunity of sending you a few lines by a vessel which is expected to sail from here for New Caledonia to-day. I am sorry to say that at present we have no mission vessel to carry our mails. We had here on the night of the 5th ult., and the morning of the 6th, the most violent hurricane that has occurred on this island, it is said, during the last twenty years, the barometer having fallen as low as 28° 30'. It was a truly terrific and most desolating storm. One of the many disastrous effects of its fury was the total wreck of the "*Dayspring*." The good little vessel had just arrived in the harbour here on her return from the northern islands, and was almost ready to set out again on her voyage to Sydney, when the hurricane came and brought her missionary career so abruptly to a close. She was dragged by the force of the revolving tempest from her moorings, and at length driven on the reef, from which she is now being daily removed in many pieces. The wreck was sold to a European whaler, who resides on this island, for the sum of thirty-eight pounds! It is well for the Mission that she was insured fully to the amount of her value. It is also a matter of thankfulness that, whilst the vessel was lost, all the lives on board were saved. Most of the ship's stores too were rescued from destruction. The Captain and his wife, the officers and crew, and

some of the passengers have been living on our premises. We have happily been able to provide them with ample sleeping accommodation. Some of the passengers have been spending part of the time at Mr. Inglis' side. There are eighteen people of them all, and they have now been upwards of five weeks on our island, and until the day before yesterday we had very faint hopes of their getting away before the month of April or May, as it is a rare thing to see a vessel sailing in these seas during the hurricane months. But suddenly our prospects brightened, as we observed a ship making for this harbour on Saturday last. As soon as she came to anchor, I had my boat launched, and Captain Jenkins and I went out to confer with the master with the view of making arrangements with him to carry the shipwrecked crew to New Caledonia. We found the vessel to be a trader, with a cargo of natives from Mallicolo, Apiti, and Espiritu Santo, and bound for Fiji. The Captain said that if the crew asked him to take them to Fiji he would be bound to do so gratis, according to law, but that, as New Caledonia was out of his course, he could not take them for less than £20 sterling. After mature consideration, Mr. Inglis, Captain Jenkins, and I agreed to give him this sum for his trouble. And so they are all (the *Dayspring* crew) engaged just now in putting their luggage on board. They will probably sail from here in the course of two or three hours. As there is regular mail communication between New Caledonia and the Colonies, our friends there will soon we trust hear of our circumstances and charter a vessel to be sent down in place of the "*Dayspring*," without delay.

EFFECTS OF THE STORM.

Our Mission premises suffered considerably from the hurricane. All our houses were more or less unroofed by it, our fences blown down, fruit trees uprooted, and plantations reduced to a state of desolation. About two-thirds of the windows of the church are blown in and dashed to pieces and upwards of a hundred panes smashed. The posts of the verandahs of the church and dwelling house were much damaged, especially those of the church verandah. Even one of the massive stone walls of the church was cracked from end to end—the effect of the force of the wind against the roof and large cross beams. Thus the buildings on which I had expended so much time and toil for eight months previously, and which I had succeeded in getting into a state of tolerably good repair, were reduced in a single night to a worse state of dilapidation than ever. And so I am busy again at rebuilding and repairing houses. I am thankful to say that already all the