

mastered the alphabet, and two are plodding their way through trisyllables,* the average male attendance being but three. Mrs Matheson has also a class of Tanesese girls, and the Aneiteumese residing here, of whom there are four, Matthew and his wife who came with us as servants on our first arrival, and Talip and his wife. Of the Tanesese girls, the average attendance is four.

Owing to the great amount of manual labor which had to be performed, and the little native assistance which could be procured during the former part of the year, it is needless to say that much precious time had to be expended on manual labor which would have been devoted to real mission work under other circumstances.

Though success has apparently been denied, we would not despair. Rather would we with increasing importunity besiege the throne of God, giving him no rest until Tana's benighted sons and daughters be found sitting at the feet of Jesus clothed and in their right mind.

Rev James Bayne.

Yours truly,

J. W. MATHESON.

LETTER FROM REV. A. W. MURRAY-

ANEITEUM, NEW HEBRIDES, Nov. 8th, 1861.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—

You will no doubt be somewhat surprised to receive a letter from one who sustains no relation to you from which might arise any ground to address you on the score of right or propriety. Indeed I feel misgivings myself as to the propriety of obtruding myself upon you. I yield however to the urgent request of my esteemed friend and fellow laborer the Rev John Geddie.

Mr Geddie thinks that in the present circumstances of your mission here the testimony of one who has had a quarter of a century's experience of missionary work in Polynesia will be of service to the cause in encouraging the friends of missions in your church, and stimulating them to increasing zeal in the prosecution of the work to which they are committed in these islands, and in which in past years they have been so signally owned and blessed. He feels that circumstances as you are the events of the past year must appear greatly discouraging, and he is concerned lest they should have the effect of damping the zeal, and weakening the hands of the friends and supporters of the mission.

You hear of disaster upon disaster, and you must be in danger of looking almost exclusively for a time at the dark side, and in consequence of feeling as if the mission were well nigh ruined, whereas we, who are on the spot, and have both sides before us, are in circumstances to form a more accurate judgment. And we are anxious as far as possible, to furnish you with the means of taking a fair view of the state of things, being perfectly assured that that is all that is necessary to convince you that there exists no cause of discouragement, but, on the contrary, that the present state of this group, taken as a whole, never was in a more promising state than it is at this moment. And in writing this I write what I know and testify what I have seen. I have just visited in company with Mr Geddie, in the "John Williams," Tana, Erromanga and other principal islands of the group, and never before did I entertain such sanguine hopes as I do now of the speedy evangelization of this great and important group. My conviction is that, if adequate means are furnished by the churches which are already pledged to the evangelization of the group, or by others that may come to our aid, every one of the thirty islands which compose the New Hebrides group may be occupied by Christian missionaries ere many years pass away. God is evidently working with us: He has gone out before us, and is remarkably preparing our way.

During our late voyage, besides finding much less to discourage on Tana and Erromanga than we had expected, we found on the island of Vate a state of things for which we were wholly unprepared. On that large and lovely island we had the high satisfaction of forming a christian church, so that there is now there a little band of witnesses for Christ and it ought to be especially noted, that this little band of converted pagans has been converted solely by the instrumentality of Native teachers. The church numbers only ten members, but the whole number who avow themselves Christians is about two hundred.

QUERY. Should it not be syllables of three letters?—ED.