

and if you can beg, borrow or steal a few planks or sawn boards for me of any kind, from anybody, and send them by the same hand, I will pay you for them either in cash or in trade when we meet, and be much obliged to you

Believe me, yours sincerely,

THOMAS NEILSON, JUNR.

REV DR. GEDDIE.

Letter from Mrs. Captain Fraser.

The following letter is from Mrs. Captain Fraser. It is interesting to learn how things look from her point of view:—

DAYSRING COTTAGE, }
ANEITEUM, NEW HEBRIDES. }

How quickly the time has flown since we left Melbourne, and now after three months more we hope to bear away to New Zealand, to enlist sympathy in our glorious work. It will be more than we dare expect to find such warm friends and supporters as we have in Victoria, but God will raise up friends for His own work wherever they are needed. At present the *Dayspring* is away to Tanna, trying if possible to secure an opening for a missionary. When she came into this harbor last, fifty heathen Tannese accompanied her; they spent a week here, were feasted and cared for by this people, and returned home apparently well pleased with their visit. It so happened at the time of their visit that H. M. S. *Charybdis* lay here; they were taken on board and very kindly treated. The annual missionary meeting was held here during their visit. They attended in all their heathenish grandeur—red paint smeared over their faces and naked bodies; their hair dressed in the most fantastic style, tied with rags; pipes stuck through the holes of their ears, and white shells distributed over their bodies. Captain Lyons and several of the officers of the *Charybdis* came to the meeting, and Mr. Smyth, the chaplain, addressed them, interpreted by Dr. Geddie. I could not help contrasting our noble British officers, types of civilisation in the highest degree, with the poor Tannese, certainly the very lowest. The thought crossed my mind that what Christianity has done for our loved fatherland it can still do for the poor benighted natives of the New Hebrides.—Oh, if we could only make them understand this! but only God's Holy Spirit can touch their dark, hardened hearts. We fondly hope that at last a footing may be gained on Tanna. We look for the dear little ship early next week. She was to visit Aniwa, and deliver Mr. Paton's letters which came by the *Charybdis*. The morn-

ing after she sailed for Tanna, H.M.S. *Challenger* came in from Fejee. I was so pleased when Commodore Lambert told me he intended going to Tanna, and would take letters, &c., and said he should be so happy to do anything for Captain Fraser and the *Dayspring*. As Mr. and Mrs. Paton did not come to the meeting, I was agreeably surprised and delighted to find Mrs. Paton on board when the *Dayspring* returned from Port de France, where she had gone with Mr. and Mrs. Sim. We enjoyed ourselves with tea parties, chatting, walking, &c., and could have spent a much longer time very agreeably; but the missionaries were anxious to get to their respective homes. Mrs. Paton had left her husband on Aniwa with Robert, and of course felt very anxious to know how things fared in her absence.

I have been living in our little *Dayspring* Cottage, as we call it, since our arrival here. It is certainly a great comfort to have a shelter on shore for the children, but I sadly miss my dear husband. Of course the voyages are short—three, four, or five weeks. I have only my natives about me. Last evening we had quite a gale of wind; I had to get boards nailed across the windows to prevent them being blown open. I hope the *Dayspring* was not exposed to it.

I must now say good-bye. We expect to leave this about the 1st of December for New Zealand, so that we shall not have the pleasure of seeing our Australian friends. With love to your family, ever believe me, very sincerely yours,

JULIA S. FRASER.

Extract of a Letter from Captain Fraser.

The subjoined letter from Captain W. Fraser of the *Dayspring*, will be read with interest. We have intelligence of the cordial reception given to Rev. Mr. Inglis and Rev. D. McDonald, in New Zealand, by Mr. Hugh Robertson, who has arrived from Aneiteum via New Zealand. It so happened that the Synod of Otago was in session when these brethren arrived. One of the evenings of the week was devoted to a public meeting in connection with missions, and the meeting was a great success. It was said to be the largest religious meeting ever held on a week day in Dunedin, or perhaps in New Zealand. The enthusiasm of the audience was boundless, and Mr. McDonald writes to a friend that he felt it worth while to have come 1400 miles to be present at that meeting, and to have helped