

Donald Mac Donald Leach

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LORD, bless and pity us, shine on us with thy face,
That th' earth thy way, and nations all may know thy saving grace.—Ps. lxxvii. 1, 2.

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Foreign Missions.

NEW HEBRIDES.

ANEITEUM.

BY THE REV JOHN INGLIS.

Aneiteum, often but incorrectly called Anatum, is the most southern island of the New Hebrides. The harbour on the south-west side of the island, as laid down by Captain Oliver, R. N., as in lat 20° 14 S., long. 169° 49 18 E., variation of the compass 10° 30 E. It is a small and rather a poor island, from thirty to forty miles in circumference. It consists of a congeries of mountains, the two highest of which are nearly 4000 feet in height, which are intersected by three or four large and a great number of small valleys. The hills are steep, and the valleys, for the most part, deep and narrow. A small stripe of alluvial land along the shore, with the lower part of the larger valleys, include the most of the cultivated land on the island, and contain the principal part of the population. The lower and middle parts of the mountains next the sea are mostly formed of red ferruginous clay, and are scantily covered with herbage and brushwood. On the upper parts, the soil, though stony, consists of a rich black mould; and dense forests cover the summits of the mountains. The island, as might be expected, is well watered; and the ingenuity of the natives is seen in nothing perhaps

so much as in the canals they have constructed for conveying the water to irrigate their plantations. There are swamps in different parts of the island, which are valuable as taro grounds; but from being imperfectly drained, are also productive of ague and fever.

The principal fruit trees on this island are the bread-fruit, the cocoa nut, the horse chesnut, and a few others of less value. The papaw apple, which has lately been introduced, grows well and is fast spreading over the island. Taro is cultivated in considerable quantities, and may be considered as the bread of the land. Sugar-cane and bananas are both extensively cultivated, and are staple articles of food. Yams are produced to a very limited extent on this island, but on Tana they are produced in great quantities. Maize appears to grow well, but is as yet very little cultivated. Pumpkins and melons also grow well. The sweet potato and other bulbous roots are common all over the island. The Cape gooseberry has been introduced and thrives well; but the common fruits and culinary vegetables of Britain come to no perfection here. Pigs and poultry are the only live stock that the natives possess, and these are not numerous,—although, as peace may continue and civilization advance, they will doubtless increase; the cows, goats, and sheep, at the two mission stations thrive well.—Around all the island, but especially at the principal harbour, fishing is one of