

EXTRACT LETTER FROM REV JOS.
EPH ANNAND.

In a private letter to a friend, Mr. Annand writes:—

Just now I am taking a half hour after dinner, while the lads who are working with me are resting, we are making a first attempt to get a garden, so I employed three lads to-day to work at it. I wish to be with them not only to oversee the work, but to get familiar with their language.

We have been nearly two and half months in our new home, and a busy life we have had since landing. Our place begins to assume a somewhat homelike appearance. I have got our dwelling house finished outside. The house is comfortable and pretty containing four rooms in the main part of the house. It is over 200 yards from the shore and about 50 feet above sea level. We went into the green tangled forest and cut a clearing for our buildings, so as yet we have only a glimpse of the water here and there. We are abundantly supplied with good fresh water from the clouds, caught from the roofs and stored in three 400 gallon iron tanks. Such is our home on the beautiful islet of Tangoa, close to the mainland on the south side of Santo. Our parishioners are the population of this isle and all the south side of Santo. There are eleven villages speaking this tongue, but on the whole south side there are four different dialects at least spoken.

Our people are friendly and somewhat intelligent. A good many of them have been away with white men in Queensland and Fiji. Some of the boys who have never been away from home have picked up quite a number of English words and phrases. The language here is wholly different from that of the Aneityumese. It is nearer akin to the Fila tongue. It will take us a good while to master it. I have got some 700 or 800 words gathered up now, but I cannot use them to very good effect as yet I have been so fully occupied with manual labor getting our house finished, and the other buildings up that I have not spent so much time over the language as I should like to have done.

Mr. and Mrs. Landels are settled on Maio, only about eight or nine miles from us, but we have not seen them since they were settled.

We are eagerly waiting to hear whether another man has been appointed to Santo by our church. If one does now come he will probably be a long distance from us as the island is very large.

We are both well, and, I think, have got a healthy place, but it will be hot during the summer months.

THE DRIFT CITYWARD.

The great, brilliant successes are, as a rule, in our cities. They attract notice. All men hear of the man who rolled up a fortune in a few years. Only few hear of the twenty that failed on the same lines. "What is hit is history; what is missed is mystery." One consequence is that the movement is from the country to the town. Young Thatcher is not going to plod along year after on the farm when he might with less toil make his thousands in the city, as a politician or a man of business. "Why, there is Baker—I'm just as smart as he is—and he is near the top of the wheel; they say he will soon be an alderman." So the tide is townward. Now it is true that one may find the best people in the towns, for mind quickens mind; but you may also find the worst; and in this world evil works at a tremendous advantage. No better population for morals and trustworthiness is found in any Christian country than those who live by the tilling of the soil. We do not ignore the value of cities, but

"God made the country, and man made the town,"

and without building on any forced exegesis of this passage, we cannot be blind to the fact that city life multiplies and complicates the problems with which Christian civilization has to deal. No five millions of country people in England present so much that is discouraging as you find among the same number crowded together in London.—*Rev. Dr. John Hall, in New Princeton Review for January.*

BRITISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO FOREIGN MISSION WORK.—Canon Scott Robertson has completed his annual summary and finds that for the year 1886 the British Isles contributed less by £33,237 to foreign mission work than they did for 1885. The total for 1886 was £1,195,714. Of this amount, £480,082 was contributed through Church of England societies, £193,617 through unsectarian or joint societies, £330,128 through Nonconformist societies, £177,184 through Scotch and Irish Presbyterian societies, and £8,703 through Roman Catholic societies.—*Scd.*

Mr. Annands letter, in another column, came to hand too late to be put in its proper place with the New Hebrides letters.