

THE Children's Presbyterian.

LETTER FROM A PASTOR.

Dear Children:—

You all know something of our three missionaries on the New Hebrides and I have no doubt read their letters with much interest. When Mr. McKenzie was visiting his native home last year, those of you who saw and heard him were much delighted with his simple earnest tale. You will also be looking forward with pleasure to the visit of Mr. Robertson this summer. But our own missionaries are not the only men working for Jesus in the South Seas. There are now eight others including a medical missionary sowing the good seed among the heathen people on these islands, under five different branches of the Presbyterian Church.

Last year the Presbyterian Church of South Australia and Tasmania sent forth their first missionary. The Rev. R. Fraser of Scotland, in connection with the Free Church, offered his services and was accepted by that body. Mr. Fraser has been settled on an island called Epi. There is a large number of people living on this island knowing nothing of God and the plan of salvation. It contains not less than 10,000 inhabitants some of whom are cannibals.

I want to tell you something about the missionary's settlement among this people and the way in which they received him. It will I trust interest you somewhat in the cause of missions, and show you how God is opening up doors for us to occupy.

When landing, the mission party went up at once to the chief's house, and found that arrangements had been made to receive them. Around his house was a small enclosure and within it were two chairs and a board or two laid across stumps, covered with neat mats. These seats were intended for the strangers, whilst a mat was spread on the ground where the natives were to sit. You will be surprised to learn that not less than 50 men & women came to see the missionaries. They wished to learn something

of the message they were bringing. The meeting was opened by singing in English the hymn "Sweet by and by." They were very quiet and listened attentively, and it must have been a curious sight to see them nearly naked seated on the ground. Prayer was then offered and these dark benighted ones shut their eyes and seemed very reverent. They were then addressed by Mr. MacDonald the missionary on Efate, whilst a native interpreted what he said. A hymn was again sung the benediction pronounced, after which all present shook hands with the mission party.

In the 42nd chapter of Isaiah and the 4th verse we are told that the isles shall wait for his law. Does it not seem when the missionary landed on Epi, that they were a people thus waiting. Who knows but they may have been growing tired of idol worship and were looking for some new and better system.

Remember the missionaries in your prayers, and let what we have told you, encourage you to put forth greater effort this year for the spread of Christ's cause. Your efforts may appear feeble but they will merit the Master's approval. Well done good and faithful servant enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

HINDOSTANI AND THE HINDOOS.

Continued.

The gods and the religious belief of the Hindus are numerous and difficult to speak about. The Indian Trinity consists of Brahma, Vishnu, and Siva. This triad expresses the unity of Creation, Preservation and destruction. A curious doctrine of Vishnu relates to his incarnations. Nine have taken place, and one is to follow. His first incarnation is that of a fish. The object was to recover the sacred Vedas which had been stolen by a demon while Brahma slept. By this loss the human race had become so wicked that all had to be destroyed by a deluge, except one pious prince and seven holy men, who were saved in a ship. Vishnu