

New Hebrides.**LETTER FROM REV. J. ANNAND.**

SANTO, New Hebrides,
March 31, 1890.

It is quite a privilege for us to have our mails now delivered every four weeks. Three mails already this year and another due next week make us feel as though we were in civilization again. We sincerely hope that we may not be compelled to return to the old sailing ship. So far as we can judge from the prospects commercially at present we have good reason to believe that the steamer will continue to run. If the present arrangements prove satisfactory, then our *Dayspring* fund may cease, and without £75 stg. added to our salaries, making in all £250 per year, we can pay our own expenses of shipping and passages, and dispense with the services of the paid agent in Sydney. Thus far the steamship service has been very satisfactory.

There was sad news for us by last mail from Scotland. The young missionary, Mr. Shanks, a nephew of Mr. Watt, lost his wife about a fortnight after marriage when they were on the point of leaving for the New Hebrides. He will not probably be down to the islands this year.

Mr. A. H. Macdonald writes me from Victoria that he hopes to settle on Santo this season. We sincerely hope he may.

There is nothing transpiring here of much interest. Just now there appears to be a struggle between the powers of evil and the gospel. We know who must come off the victor.

Heathenism for some few weeks past has been rampant around us. The temptation was too strong for the Tangoan youth who was with us for ten months. When the night dancing began he left us, and joined it. Our school and Sunday services have been less satisfactorily attended of late. However, we always have at least 30 at church and generally more. We are not the least discouraged, for we always expected to see some open opposition before the victory was gained.

None but the inexperienced anticipate gathering in these people rapidly during the first five years of labor among them. It takes the truth a long time to find its way to their hearts and consciences. The reason of this is evident. Their minds are so deadened by a life time of sin and devil service, and their habits of life so degraded that it is really wonderful that the gospel changes them at all.

Then, perhaps, the greatest difficulty of all in the way of evangelizing them is their language. It is so imperfect and cramped that nothing but constant drilling can bring

home to their minds the real truth that we wish to impart. We come to them with wholly new ideas, and we find no terms in which to express our exact meaning, hence circumlocution and attaching new and enlarged ideas to old terms. Brethren, pray for us that the word of God may have free course and be glorified. We are both well and busy.

LETTER FROM REV. J. ANNAND.

SANTO, NEW HEBRIDES.
May 1, 1890.

My Dear Mr. Scott:

Yours of New Year's day came to hand by last mail, being a month longer on the way than most of the letters sent us from N. S. about that date.

Many thanks for sending us the *MARITIME* and *Children's Record*.

Thanks for New Year's wishes. We have no just cause of complaint in regard to our happiness. Our health is now quite good, and we find sufficient work to occupy all our time. We have learned to make the best of our circumstances generally, and we have no quarrel with Providence for not treating us better. Of course we, like most other human beings, imagine that we could be happier under some other conditions, or if we could receive more in accordance with our wishes. However I am beginning to wholly discard that doctrine, and to adopt the theory that all is now transpiring in the best way for us—"that all things work together for good, etc."

We imagine that if the work was more prosperous we should be happier and more contented, but it is questionable if we would then be one degree more happy. The Lord gives us all the success in his work that we deserve, that our faith can receive and anything beyond that might ruin us. The thorn in the flesh is doubtless needed as well as the vision of glory. What a comforting fact it is to recognize that the Lord leadeth us! He it is that opens up our way, going before us always. Some day we shall understand more fully the things that perplex us while journeying through this world.

I am pleased to see that you have got a good man for Couva after so long a delay. Mr. and Mrs. Morton had a very successful visit home and appear to have stirred up the church considerably by their addresses and letters.

I sympathize with Mr. Wilkie in being detained at home to collect money—a most thankless object in many places. I trust that he is back at his work ere this. Honan now will doubtless be the popular field since