

# THE Children's Presbyterian.

## THE WISHING GATE.

FOR THE CHILDREN.

Before the January number of the Maritime Presbyterian reaches your homes you will have entered upon a new year. To some of you it will be your last on earth, hence it is important that you begin 1883 well.

On the first January many of you received nice presents from parents, and others, and you have all been making many wishes. Your wishes will not all be gratified for no matter how much we may have, we still want more. Nobody sits down perfectly satisfied. Wishes however, unless turned into wells or drawn into hopes, are of little service. How many boys and girls, men and women, wish to be saved and yet are not. They live on the wish instead of following to know the Lord.

As many of you have been dealing with the land of wishes let us improve this subject a little by entering upon a new year. The wishing gate is a place that shows what is in your hearts. You wish for the object that you long for, and have not got. How many wishes have now gone forth from your hearts. Could they all be gathered into one point? Is there one object gathers your life up which you feel to be the highest and best? Our Saviour said, Know ye not that I must be about my Father's business. Paul said, I press toward the mark for the prize of that calling of God in Christ Jesus. There was one aim, one point with both of them. All your wishes and attention then, should be fixed on religion.

Then the wishing gate is the meeting place of Jesus. On one occasion when our Saviour and his disciples went out of Jericho, a blind man sat by the high-way-side begging. The people told him to be quiet, as he cried out to Christ for mercy. Jesus however asked him. "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee." He wished to receive his sight. The blessing was conferred upon him. At this season of the year, the sweet and loving

message is addressed to you. What wilt thou. The blind man needed to have, his sight restored. We all need spiritual eye sight the eyes of the new heart. That new heart you cannot make. Your parents, Sabbath School teachers, or ministers cannot. It is a gift from God.

Let it be your wish at the wishing gate this new year, "that I may receive my sight." None of you are too young to ask for it. There is no time to be lost. Many children were snatched away by death last year. Our grave yards this year will receive the lifeless forms of many children. Read at once then God's promise to you, and make it yours. 'Early,' is the word he uses. Over the wishing gate stands the promise, and may you all learn how precious it is. They that seek me early, shall find me. Oh that many may find him during 1883. D.

## THE NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

Letter from Rev. Joseph Annand.

Aneityum Aug. 1882.

Dear Brother Scott:—

I not only write you, but I requested one of my pupils also to send you an epistle which she is doing. For fear that you might not be able to interpret it to Mrs. Scott I have written out a translation for you.

Naping is our head servant about the house, as well as one of my most advanced scholars. She was two years with us on Efate with her husband, and has now been with us altogether nearly five years. She is a fine consistent christian woman and her letter is the simple, truthful expression of her feelings and the desires of her heart. She can follow ordinary conversation in English and reads a little in it.

We had communion here a week ago, as Naping tells you, and four new elders and six deacons were elected and ordained. Our staff numbers fifteen elders and