

need to be reminded of the reply of the angel to Abraham's wife, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

THE TOUR OF OBSERVATION.

Shortly after the meeting of the Mission Synod, Mr. Annand and I made a tour inland, and visited about a dozen villages. I have been very much disappointed in regard to the population in them. We saw but a mere handful of people at each village, and at some, indeed many of them, not a single child. This, as you may well imagine, is not very encouraging to missionary enterprise on this side of the island. We remained away four days. This was quite long enough to give us an idea of their misery, as well as a taste of a missionary's hardships. Although we met with no encouragement in regard to their embracing the Gospel, yet we received no open opposition. Indeed at some of the villages they showed us no little kindness. I remember at one village we were a little annoyed at their kindness. Just after we had fallen asleep, which was no easy thing to do between pigs and fleas, we were awakened up by some of them who had brought us a large piece of kabuta, native pudding.

THE TRADE IN NATIVES.

Our hearts are still pained at seeing our young men taken away by the slavers. At this village we have about thirty children attending school regularly, and getting on nicely. We are very much interested in them. But our hopes for their future would be blighted at once were it not for the thought that God may hear our prayers, and cause this iniquitous traffic to cease before they are old enough to be taken away.

A SOLEMN QUESTION.

Is the Church at home making this a special subject of prayer, that her Great Head would remove this trial from her missionaries. This above everything else we have to endure in this field. If it continues it must eventually bring our work to a stand still. Where are we to get our future native teachers, without whom, so far as human agency is concerned, the work cannot be carried on successfully? Our labour is thus rendered worse than useless, for those who before they have home seem the cleverest, most hopeful, and farthest advanced, are, when away from home they are most likely to lead others astray.

TRANSLATION.

I have not yet done much in the way of translating. I had commenced the Gospel of Luke, but after consultation with Mr. McDonald, we concluded that one transla-

tion of the Scriptures will do for Efate; and as he has translated that Gospel, I have taken the Book of Acts. But as we now have a considerable portion of God's Word printed, viz., John, Mark, and Genesis, I think it advisable to devote most of my time at present to the heathen villages, in order, if possible, to get openings for teachers.

A REQUEST.

Oh! pray much and earnestly for us, and for those heathen tribes. Pray that our Redeemer may claim his own, and then the Father shall soon fulfil His promises. "None shall want her mate." Then these islands shall be wrested from the enemy. "As truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord."

But I must draw to a close as it is getting late. With kindest regards to your family and other friends in which Mrs. McKenzie unites.

I remain, yours faithfully,
J. W. MCKENZIE.

A Cruise in the Mission Vessel among the Islands of the New Hebrides.

BY THE REV. DR. STEEL.

No. VII.

The Synod ended its deliberations on the evening of the 16th. The next day was devoted to preparation for departure. Mr. and Mrs. Inglis, accompanied by Mr. Robertson, went by boat to Aname. A deputation went to Ana-unse, a whaling station, and another to Inyung, also a whaling station, to urge the request of the Synod that intoxicating liquor should not be given to the natives. This practice has been leading some into intemperance.

In the evening a schooner entered the harbor flying the French flag. She proved to be the *Lulu*, from Noumea, New Caledonia. She brought no letters; but as she was proceeding to Mare, one of the Loyalty Islands, she offered to take letters to be sent by the French steamer to Sydney. We availed ourselves of this opportunity, the only one since we left Sydney in April, though it was possible that letters might not reach Sydney sooner than the mission vessel. I had often prepared letters, but had not met any vessels going to Noumea or Sydney.

We sailed on the morning of the 18th, and got round to Aname at three in the afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Inglis, and Mr. Robertson came on board, but it was dark before all things for the vessel could be brought off. We had, therefore, to wait till the next day. A number of natives