

team, and the other from Captain Fraser of the *Dayspring*. Mr. Inglis was only able to write a hurried note, acknowledging the receipt of communications from Victoria by the *Dayspring*, and promising fuller information after the annual meeting of missionaries should be held in Aneiteum. He, however, added the best of all news—that the mission families at the headquarters of the mission were all well, and that the good cause had been making steady progress throughout the year. With reference to the missionaries and their families on the other islands, their isolation from Aneiteum is all but complete during the absence of the *Dayspring*, and Mr. Inglis could say little about them, but what is wanting in Mr. Inglis's communication is made up by the letter of Captain Fraser.

Captain Fraser writes from New Caledonia, and after having made the round of the New Hebrides and Loyalty Islands, and put into Port de France on business connected with the missionaries on the Loyalty Islands, which, as our readers are aware, are French possessions, and penlands of New Caledonia. There is a monthly mail from New Caledonia to Sydney by French steamer, and it is by that route that we have received Mr. Inglis' and Captain Fraser's letters.

The captain says that he had rather a tedious voyage from Port Phillip to Aneiteum, arriving there on the 1st of June. It will help our readers to understand what Captain Fraser felt to be a tedious voyage, if we remind them that the *Dayspring* passed through the Heads on the 7th May, after a very long delay inside waiting for a wind. A tedious voyage, therefore, from Melbourne to Aneiteum is a voyage of twenty-four days, and a smart voyage would be a voyage of about a fortnight.—The *Dayspring* remained at Aneiteum four days, landing stores, and then proceeded to the other islands to ascertain how it fared with the missionaries since last located at their various posts. All the friends of the mission were specially anxious to learn how the Patons were on Aniwa, as no missionary had ever been stationed on Aniwa before, and as the first year of a missionary's residence among a heathen people is always the most critical. Happily, Captain Fraser is able to say that he had found Mr. Paton and his family all well, and most useful at their new station. The captain's letter says:—"Mr. Paton has done wonders since we placed him on Aniwa. Nearly all the people attend school, and Mrs. Paton has upwards of thirty women attending her class." Aniwa is a small island, with a population of about 300 souls; and in the disturbed state of Tanna, the missionaries judged it advisable for Mr. Paton to occupy the smaller island for at least one year.—

And surely we have reason to thank God, and take courage, on account of the success which has been vouchsafed to our brother. We may mention in passing that, as Churches at a distance have not the necessary knowledge to enable them to fix the exact locality of a missionary's field of labour, and as it may not often be wise to leave it to each missionary to make his own choice, it is always left to the annual conference of missionaries to determine these, and indeed all other, questions requiring to be determined by local knowledge. Thus, on the mission-field, the Presbyterian rule of an annual assembly to regulate the work of the mission is as much acted on because as much needed as in more organised Churches, a proof that the Presbyterian method of superintending religious work is the rational way, and the way suited to every phase and necessity of religious life.

Captain Fraser also found the Copeland's well, and doing well on Fotuna; and the Morrison's and Cosh's well and useful on Fate. Mr. Cosh had succeeded remarkably in learning the language of Fate, with every promise of future usefulness. Mr. Cosh is a young man of superior gifts, as well as of rare devotedness. He stood high as a student in the University of Glasgow, taking the degree of Master of Arts with credit at the conclusion of his college course; and all who know him augur a bright career for him on the mission-field. It is surely a token for good that our Church has been able to secure for its missionaries on the New Hebrides group two such servants of God as Messrs. Paton and Cosh.

As we are only now beginning to know a little about the New Hebrides Islands and their relations to the French possessions in their neighbourhood, and may soon have to know more, it may be interesting to our readers to learn that the distance from Aneiteum to New Caledonia is about three days' sail. Captain Fraser reports that he has made arrangements to go across again to Lifu, to meet the French mail which leaves Sydney in October; and that letters to the missionaries and the captain leaving Victoria in the beginning of October (addressed to the care of the Rev. Dr. Steel, Sydney) will be delivered at the islands this year before the *Dayspring* leaves for the colonies. We trust that all those who are or would like to be in communication with the missionaries will take advantage of this opportunity and write. Letters from Christian friends must be indeed precious to the missionaries and their wives.

Letters from the New Hebrides.

The following letter is from Rev. John Inglis, the beloved fellow-worker on Aneiteum.