

now on his way from Scotland for this Mission. But it was decided ultimately to send her to the Islands about the appointed time, to give the Missionaries an early visit, and send her back for Mr. Milne about July next. The advantages of this course are: 1. It gives the Missionaries on the field an early visit; 2. It lets Mr. Inglis to his post, and allows Mr. Watt to be settled; 3. It allows Mr. Milne time to become personally acquainted with the Church that is to support him—that of Southland, *alias* Middle Island of N. Z. The disadvantage of it is the wear and tear of the vessel. It is supposed that the time necessary to wait for Mr. Milne now, would be equal to that necessary to make a trip from the Islands here and back. Mr. Inglis, I understand, has been very successful in raising the Insurance Fund in these Islands. I am told that he has raised that fund now to three thousand pounds. I have not seen himself for some days, we both having been out in the country in different directions.

March 29.—To-day, we had the very great pleasure of receiving yours of the 15th and 17th of Dec. of last year. Many, many thanks for being so mindful of us. Your letters are all a cordial to us. We value highly the Christian sympathy accorded to us by our Church. I desire to be thankful to God for any measure in which I have secured the approbation and confidence of our beloved Church; though it is not the Church, I trust, I sought to please in the first instance, but her Head and Lord.

It is needless to keep accounts with me now, for any other purpose than for knowing how your money is expended. It seems the conviction is stealing upon you that I shall not be again fit for Mission work. It has been upon me for some time. Nor do I see that active service anywhere is a thing near in prospect. However, "good is the Will of the Lord." I would gladly remain and serve in the vineyard a while yet. My heart is yearning over fields already white to the harvest, and no labourers to reap—sheep scattered on the mountains, and no shepherd to gather them—but still the Lord and Master is wiser and more compassionate than I, therefore, if he say that I am to stand by and look on, what am I that I should object? Or, if he say that I am to be gathered home, through infinite mercy, to the family above, why should I not rather rejoice. I am not what I ought to be; but His grace is sufficient for me.

We left Sydney on the 20th Feb. On the passage I improved very much, my appetite became good, and my strength began to increase. I continue to improve to date. To-morrow or next day we are to sail for the New Hebrides. Since the sea

agrees with me so well, I hope to improve much in the *Dayspring*.

Our Christian friends in Auckland deserve well of us. We have experienced a great deal of genial Christian kindness among them. They make us feel very much at home.

The Insurance fund is raised to £3000, but it appears that £100 or £200 have been borrowed from the Teachers' fund.

I might hint that Missionaries coming out for this mission, should leave in such time as to arrive in Australia in February.

If they are in the Colonies too long before the departure of the *Dayspring*, they will find more time on hand than is pleasant, and if they arrive even a little too late, it is still worse. From 90 to 100 days is the average passage from Britain.

We go down to the Islands now, but it is probable not to remain—probably we shall come back here in the *Dayspring*. We do not know what our course will be until we confer with the brethren on the Islands. It is with a heavy heart we contemplate our retiring from the Mission work; but if so the Lord wills His will be done. You see I write you yet with my own hand. With my own hand I send Mrs. McGregor and yourself my kindest regards, in which Mrs. M. joins me.

Yours very sincerely,
DONALD MORRISON.

Rev. P. G. MCGREGOR.

Journal of a voyage among the New Hebrides Islands.

BY THE REV. DR. GEDDIE.

The writer of the following narrative was appointed by his missionary brethren to make a voyage among the islands of the New Hebrides group. The chief objects of the voyage were to ascertain the present state of the islands and the practicability of extending our efforts to the more northern islands, which are still enshrouded in heathen darkness. It has been judged that a brief account of the voyage would form a suitable appendix to the report of the *Dayspring* for the present year, as it may give a better idea of her work than the friends of the mission can obtain from more general statements.

FOTUNA.

The *Dayspring* arrived at this island on October the 7th, after a run from Aneityum of twelve hours. Its appearance when approached is remarkable, and reminds one of a mountain which has arisen abruptly out of the sea. The surface is so uneven that the natives are obliged to use rudely-constructed ladders to enable them to travel in many places. There are, however, spots of table-land, and on these the natives build