

building. A brother of the murderer of John Williams has also come and erected a house behind the church, in which he is living and attending school and worship; and a number of smart boys and girls, some from a great distance, are gathering in to live and be instructed on the mission premises. Let us hope and pray that blood-stained Erromanga may soon become a Christian island, and all its inhabitants be led to embrace and serve Jesus Christ our Saviour.

TANNA.

Monday, 30th.—Reached the south side of Tanna, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Watt. Went ashore in the boat, and found all well. Mr. Inglis and his Aneityumese have assisted in putting up an excellent house of two rooms, which were almost ready for being occupied. They also put up some out native houses and a boat house. Being unable to secure a higher situation, they were forced to build on the shore, near to the boat-landing, and I fear it will be subject to ague. For some unknown purpose the natives got up a story about the site of Mr. Matheson's house being fighting ground, and not suitable for the mission-house; but no battle has been fought on it for the last ten years, and probably never was. There is no spot on Tanna which deserves the name of fighting ground, or that gets such a name from the natives. The fighting ground is just where the opposing parties meet, and after a war has been begun I have seen them burning a piece of ground on the boundary between the parties at war, but they do not go to fight on the cleared ground, but watch and try to surprise each other in the adjacent bush. The frame of this house was supplied by the Church in New Zealand supporting Mr. Watt, and consists of two apartments, which can be added to when convenient. It gives ample evidence of Mr. Inglis's skill and experience in house building, as indeed all he undertakes does in other departments of mission work. After giving what assistance he could, Mr. Neilson had returned to his own station at Port Resolution. When we had got Mr. Inglis and his 67 Aneityumese on board the *Dayspring*, with all their property and pigs (for natives are always collecting such property), we intended to have called at Port Resolution, Aniwa, and Fortuna, on our way to Aneityum; but owing to the number of natives now on board we were necessitated to sail for Aneityum, and after twenty-four hours' hard beating against a heavy head wind we reached it, and found all well. As we had a long and stormy passage south they were getting alarmed about us, and were glad to see our return.

JOHN G. PATON.

News of the Church.

College Hall Lectures.

Two of these have been delivered within the month; the first by Rev. A. Ross, of Knox Church, Pictou; the second by Rev. J. McKinnon, of Hopewell. Mr. Ross chose for his subject—"Preaching, and the qualifications of Preachers," and treated his subject so as to render it interesting and profitable to all who heard. The students felt that the instruction prepared for them was specially suitable and practical, and ministers who attended retired saying that the lecture delivered, for practical wisdom, freshness of thought, and godly earnestness, was all that they could desire.

He first sketched the history of Preaching, ancient and modern, and of this part of the lecture we shall not attempt to give an outline, merely remarking that the preaching of the Saviour, of the Apostles, and of successive schools, was presented as respects matter, style, and manner with vividness and discrimination.

He laid out his strength in shewing the *qualifications* of the efficient, successful preacher, and we find that we cannot do better than reproduce the excellent outline of this part of the subject furnished by the *Witness* of Feb. 3rd.

"He briefly referred to 'bodily qualities'—gestures, looks, nervous and muscular action,—an open, honest, loving and sympathetic countenance. After noting the great importance of these qualities—especially a good voice well modulated, he proceeded to show the other qualifications necessary, which he classified under four heads, 1. Intellectual, 2. Moral, 3. Emotional, 4. Spiritual or gracious. Under the Intellectual head he showed the great value of Common Sense. But a mere 'common sense' and 'business man' will make but a very 'common' preacher. He will stand the wear and tear of life better than an ethereal genius, but he will keep the old beaten path as monotonously as a mail courier. Reasoning powers, keen perception, sound judgment, good memory, and a chastened imagination were mentioned under this head. The preacher finds scope for the highest flights of genius. Moses, David, Isaiah, and Paul were men of splendid imagination. Knowledge of God, of nature, and especially of human nature, is requisite. The preacher must study the peculiarities of the people among whom he labours—their language, modes of thought, traditions, temper, manners, objects of desire and disgust, prejudices, and influences, past and present, that help to make them what they are. It is thus that