

THE MARITIME PRESBYTERIAN.

to get an edition to our first book down from Sydney by the "Dayspring" this year.

FROM MRS. ANNAND ONCE MORE.

SANTO, July 24, 1889.

The western part of the Church of Canada has been doing nobly, in sending out men and women to the foreign field, and the Lord will bless the Church that helps to spread His cause. We watch with deep interest all that the church is doing in our own land. If people at home could only be set down for a time among the heathen and see for themselves their utter hopelessness, they would be willing to deny themselves and do much more.

I cannot report any rapid progress in our work—it is slow, patient "toiling on." The seed is being sown, and we trust in due time to see it yielding fruit. Their minds are so dark, that it seems hard for them to embrace the truth. The women have not been coming to the Sabbath services for some months. until last Sabbath when two of them and a girl were present. The men do not wish them to attend church and school, for fear that it would interfere with their work for them. However we trust to get them in by and bye. We long to help them, they are so fearfully degraded. The men and boys attend the Sabbath services, and quite a number of them attend school, but are making slow progress. At times we have a few men at the Sabbath services from the mainland villages, and also from the island of Araki.

We have commenced our third year here. You "hope that after a time we may have some regular trading vessels calling here, or a trading company established." About a month ago the "Santa Cruz." chartered by a new company in Sydney, called the Australian New Hebrides Company, was in our harbour for some days. The manager was buying up all the good land he could get. Their object is to put some respectable white families here, to plant and originate trade, etc. They bought two splendid lots of land, one six miles distant from us, and the other three. Mr. Annand was away with them for three days, as interpreter. We trust that we may have some nice neighbors bye and bye. A young man by the name of Whitford bought an acre of ground, about half a mile from us, some weeks ago, for a copra station. (Copra is the dried kernel of the cocoanut, from which the oil has been expressed.) He will leave natives to make the copra, and come round for it in his little vessel. He promises to improve our mail advantages, as he lives on Malekula and has vessels calling there for his copra, and so has opportu-

nities of sending away letters. I rejoice to tell you that two new missionaries joined our number this year. We do not know where they are to be settled; it will be decided at the meeting of the Synod. They both expressed a wish to come to Santo. We were not able to attend the meeting, as we had no competent person to leave in charge of the work. The man we got from Aneityum as teacher does not know the language yet. Besides, had we gone, we would have been away for eight or nine weeks—too long a time to have left the work just yet.

Now we do not wish you to think that because our people attend church and school fairly well that we have got them christianized. No, dear friends, it is sowing the seed upon very hard ground. Their poor dark minds are long in understanding the most simple truths. Continue to pray for us. Gani, the young man who was put away from the village for breaking caste some seven months ago, is still with us and doing well. He is quite a help to Mr. Annand in his translating.

Your truly,

ALICE M. ANNAND.

LETTER FROM WAIHIT.

Waihit was one of the first chiefs on Aneityum to embrace the gospel when Dr. Geddie went to that Island. Ever after he was one of the "pillars". When Mr. Annand came home some five or six years ago, Waihit's message to the church here was one of thankfulness that they had sent the gospel to the New Hebrides, and said he "Tell them to be strong" in living and working for Christ. The old man has written a letter which we copy from the *Free Church Monthly* and which will be of interest to our readers.

"DEAR BRETHREN IN SCOTLAND,—I am an old man now; I was with Mr. Geddie when the gospel message was first brought to our land. I am anxious to have my thoughts conveyed to you regarding the mission on Aneityum. There are few of the first converts left now to take a leading part in the worship of Jehovah. Many of the younger generation have been taught to read and write; but their conduct is not straight, their way of living is uneven. They are like a fallen orange—the color and appearance is good on one side; but we find on turning it round that the destroying insect has been at work and rendered it unfit for use. So with our young men; they