

We have had heavy showers lately, and within a fortnight the wet season may be expected fully to sit in. The Coolies in this village have all their lands beautifully cleaned, and are already beginning to sow their rice. This has affected our school during the last two days and it may be necessary to change our hours.

People here have shewn us much kindness and taken a lively interest in our work. The Governor's lady visited us, when guest at a neighbouring estate, and His Excellency sent a cheque for one hundred dollars. The enclosed accounts speak for themselves. You will see therefrom how much we are indebted to Rev. Geo. Lambert and his spirited little congregation. With respect to the donations I may mention that a number of them were altogether unsolicited. The others were drawn out by the suggestion of Mr. Lambert, that friends of the Coolies there should encourage the Church of the Lower Provinces in some such way. All protestant denominations gave, and there are several Roman Catholics on the list.

Yours very sincerely,

JOHN MORRIS.

P. S.—You will notice that the account shows an expenditure at least 50 per cent above the first estimate. Friends here advised this as the only true economy, and assured us that in case the premises were *not patched*, but *put in good order* help could more cheerfully be given. The assurance has been made good. The house consists of a parlor or West Indian hall, a dining room, two bedrooms, one serving as a study, a small gallery and a pantry. The kitchen and servants room are in a separate building. The house and church are both covered with galvanized iron. The price of lumber and other materials—cartage &c., shows how short a distance money goes here.

Be kind enough to credit Iere Village congregation with \$30, Nova Scotia currency for Foreign Missions. Tho' deducted in the account, to show the balance to be paid to my account, it is not to be identified with the contributions for building.

## NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

### Fourth Annual Report

*Of the Voyages of the Mission Ship "Dayspring" among the New Hebrides and Loyalty Islands, 1867.*

In addressing the supporters of the *Dayspring* as the labours of another year are drawing to a close, we feel happy to say that we have little or nothing to record, in connection with the vessel, but what is en-

couraging, and calculated to draw forth expressions of thankfulness and gratitude to God.

The *Dayspring* remained in Melbourne last year as her head-quarters in the colonies. A deep interest was taken there in her work by the friends of these missions, and great activity was displayed to secure her support and promote her efficiency. Owing to a long continuance of light and unfavourable winds, she had a tedious passage to the islands, and it was the 1st of June before she reached Aneiteum, her head quarters when in these seas; however, she has been most actively employed since.

During the present season the *Dayspring* has made five voyages among the islands of the New Hebrides, and three voyages among the Loyalty islands. She also made a visit to Numen, in New Caledonia. Her voyages in the New Hebrides this year did not extend beyond Fate or Sandwich Island. It was arranged that one of her voyages should extend to Shepherd's Island, Ambrim, and Santo; but circumstances, to which allusion shall afterwards be made, prevented this arrangement from being carried out.

After the loss of the *John Williams* was known in Sydney, the agent of the London Missionary Society sent down an application, requesting the services of the *Dayspring* to visit their missions in Eastern Polynesia. Owing to the state of the New Hebrides Mission, and the condition of the vessel, it was found impracticable to comply with this request this year; but a minute was passed at our annual meeting, placing the services of the vessel at the disposal of the London Missionary Society for some months next year, if required.

### TRIALS OF THE YEAR.

This has been another year of severe trial to the New Hebrides Mission. Early in the year dysentery broke out on Tanna, and spread over a great part of the island; a considerable number died, and, as usual, there arose among the Tannese a feeling very antagonistic to Christianity. In June, hooping-cough appeared on Aneiteum, it was brought to the island by one or two trading vessels. It was very severe on children and grown up people of feeble health. Considerably more than a hundred died, either of hooping-cough or of its sequelæ. On Erromanga an epidemic resembling diphtheria broke out in August, and proved very fatal, both among the Christian and the heathen natives. The heathen became excited and hostile, and threatened the lives of the missionaries. For nearly two months the mission premises had to be watched and guarded night and day. It was feared that the missionaries might have to flee for their lives, and leave