

## Letter from Rev. J. Inglis.

Rev. John Kay, Secretary to Reformed Presbyterian Foreign Mission.

ANCEITYUM, NEW HEBRIDES, }  
February 7, 1874.

I am thankful to say that we are both well. My wife is standing this summer better than she did the previous one. The other mission family on this island are also well. We are holding on the even tenor of our way. Since I wrote you, I have finished the examination of all my schools, twenty-eight in number, comprising the entire population of 750 persons as scholars, infants excepted. I spent a Sabbath at each of my three out-stations; and afterwards dispensed the communion here at the central station. The weather was fine, and there was a very good attendance. The number of communicants on the roll is 330, besides 5 who are under suspension.

In a former letter I mentioned that this last year I had discontinued giving a present of clothing to the teachers. I wished the natives to make a collection for them; but the teachers came to me and said, that they would prefer having plantations of taro, etc., made for them, the produce of which they could sell, and buy clothing with the price they might receive for it. To this I assented; but the plantations were coming slowly into existence; and hence, at the time of the communion, when most of the natives are here, I brought the matter again fully before them; and eight days thereafter, it was arranged that a deputation, consisting of the principle chiefs and other influential men, should visit every district and talk to the people on this subject. This was done. The deputation commenced on Monday at the one end of the district, and finished off their labours on Friday at the other. They were very well received, and the scheme for raising a sustentation fund for the teachers has been favourably inaugurated. I did not accompany the deputation; I left it all to themselves. My object in all such matters is to instruct them in the principles, and leave them to work them out themselves. To do for them what they themselves cannot do, and then leave them to do the rest as they best may.

We have had three moderately severe hurricanes this year, and one very heavy thunderstorm. The first hurricane, especially, did considerable damage; it blew down cocoa-nut trees, injured the bread-fruit crop, and destroyed bananas, and other kind of food; but, in comparison of last year's one, the damage is not worth mentioning. The first was the earliest in the season that that venerable personage—the oldest inhabitant of Aneityum—ever saw. It occurred ten days sooner than the last

year's one, on the 25th of December, the day commonly called *Christmas*, by Romanists, Prelatists, pseudo-Presbyterians, and others, who are not satisfied with Scripture as the sole authority for their religious observances. By the Aneityumese, who are innocently, perhaps blissfully, ignorant of mediæval and patristic theology, who know nothing on such subjects beyond the statements of the Bible and the teaching of the Shorter Catechism,—and that too in an age in which dogma and system in theology are so loudly cried down, while dogma and system in science and everything else are so loudly cried up,—by them, the sanctity and honours claimed for this day are wholly unknown. They know of no holy day but the Sabbath. Remember Christmas, to keep it holy, as it is not in the decalogue, so it is not in their calendar. The 25th of December will be remembered among them for some time to come as the date of this earliest hurricane; but for nothing more memorable, and for nothing more sacred.

I have been occupying all my spare time with the translation of the Bible. For the last five months I have been tasking myself, special occasions excepted, to about two pages of my Hebrew Bible, or one of my English one, about thirty verses, a-day. So that my motto is not *Nulla dies sine versu*, but *Nulla dies sine capite*—it is not a verse, but a chapter a day. I am now at the twentieth chapter of Ezekiel. So that, it spared in life and health till the middle of next month, I hope to see the translation of the Bible into Aneityumese finished. There is, of course, a great amount of revision to be done after that, but still the most formidable part of the work will then be accomplished.

I hope you have secured our successors for this station. You know my views about a vacancy. May the Lord send missionaries according to His own heart. With our very kind regards, and best wishes to you and the Committee, I remain, yours very sincerely,  
JOHN INGLIS.

## Letter from Rev. Thomas Christie.

COUVA, June 8th, 1874.

DEAR MR. MCGREGOR,—I suppose many of the friends of the Trinidad Mission will have the pleasure of hearing Mr Morton; but as he will only be able to address a few hundreds, while the RECORD speaks to thousands, I trust that those who do not have the opportunity of hearing him will feel interested in a letter from the field.

## CROPS INJURED.

The prospect at present is rather a gloomy one as regards the condition of affairs generally in the Island. As you know the chief production is sugar, and in the pre-