

TIDINGS FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

WE subjoin a few extracts from letters recently received in this city by Mr. Robertson, which give interesting facts in reference to the work of the Mission since he left Aneityum, some ten months ago.

Dr. Geddie, under date of July 10th, writes:—"Mr. Neilson gets on quietly at Port Resolution. Many of the natives there begin to manifest some interest in the gospel. He is endeavouring to open up a station at Wai-sisi for another missionary. We long to see Mr. Goodwill. His arrival here will commit another Church to the evangelization of this group. I trust that others will soon follow him. His location cannot be settled until he is among us. Another missionary is wanted on Tanna and Faté also. Messrs. Smith and Cronstedt have opened whaling stations on this island at Anelcauhat and Anauuense. The most of the whaling natives have gone to them, and Underwood has very few hands this season. The whales are just coming now, and they have taken one already; whereas the people on the small island have not taken any. There is a fair prospect of their success. They seem to deal fairly with the natives, and I hope their establishment will be a benefit to the island."

Mr. Inglis says:—"There was no hurricane, and there has been no epidemic this year. The public health is good throughout the islands. Mr. and Mrs. Watt are settled on Tanna, at the station formerly occupied by the late Mr. and Mrs. Matheson. They have met with a very encouraging reception. I have been away five weeks assisting in their settlement, and in the erection of their house. Mr. Neilson was with me. I had also Nowonpakau and Ringooringo, and about 60 Aneityumese. Mr. Gordon has gone to Santo. Mr. Paton went with him, and they met with a most gratifying reception. Mr. Paton says he never saw anything like it on the New Hebrides. As a whole, the mission has not been in such an encouraging state since the arrival of the *Dayspring* in 1864."

Mr. Copeland, writing from Futuna, July 17th, says:—"I am thankful to say that since you saw us we have been enjoying good health. We had neither hurricane nor sickness during the last summer, and the heat was not so great as I have felt it. The oranges are a most abundant crop this year. I never saw so many about Anelcauhat. These between the school and the printing office are bearing. The *Pilgrim's Progress* has been printed, and is now in circulation. The first half of the Old Testament will soon be ready for the press. Our annual meeting was held in May. Mr. Morrison came down by the *Dayspring*. He was chairman at our general meeting, and stood the long sederunts wonderfully well, but he is far from being what he was when he came to the group in 1864."

Mr. Neilson, Dr. Geddie's son-in-law, in a letter dated Port Resolution, July 5th, says:—"Tanna will need at least two more missionaries than it has, and so heavily has the curse of Babel fallen upon us, that we will require to have our books in no fewer than three separate languages. We had a good deal of fighting shortly after you left, and all the people on the west side of the harbour were eventually driven away far into the bush, and dare not show face on their old ground for fear of being shot. We ourselves, during all the time of the disturbance, have never had any threatenings, and have lived among them all through with the greatest composure. We are gradually acquiring the language, and I have religious service every Sabbath-day in several villages around. There is a decided improvement in the demeanour of the people; they do not display so much impudence or conceit; and, though still quite ignorant of the gospel, have a pretty shrewd notion that it is something good for them. Tanna has been a dark and blackened field for many, many years, and I do not look for a very speedy spreading of the gospel upon it, but I do confidently expect that by and by the leaven of the kingdom will pervade it all. We shall have need of all our faith and hope and zeal, and, above all, of the blessing by which alone our labours can be rendered successful."