

New Hebrides.**LETTER FROM REV. J. MACKENZIE.**

ERAKOR, BEATE, Aug. 10, 1889.

MY DEAR MR. MORRISON:

I am busy getting my orders, mail, etc., ready for the "Dayspring", and intend taking them round to Hav Harbour on Tuesday first, as she does not call here on her way south. It was found that she would scarcely have time to make two trips to Sydney this year, so it was agreed that she only call at such stations as is absolute necessary.

I am thankful to see that at present we are fairly well. Had a nice change a few weeks ago, having gone south to Kwamera, Tanna, to the Mission Synod. We were absent from our station a little over three weeks. The accommodation of our mission vessel was taxed to the utmost. All the berths in the native teachers' room were occupied, and even some of us had to go under the table or wherever a sleeping place could be found. Whilst one could not but pity our esteemed father of the mission, Mr. Paton, who along with Mrs Paton and their daughter, is back to the islands on a visit, yet it was very amusing to see him go to the end of the table, and worm his way into his den—the settees almost enclosed it on either side. We also had the pleasure of the presence of Mr. Bannerman, chairman of the F. M. Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Otago and Southland, at our meeting.

It was very gratifying to have two additional labourers join our ranks—Mr. Smail from the church just mentioned, and Mr. Gillan from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. The former has been appointed to a station on Epi, and the latter has probably ere this been settled at Port Stanley, Malakula.

We expect two more at least next April. Were fortunate, and yet unfortunate, both going south and returning. Went on board here on a Monday afternoon, and reached Dillon's Bay next day. Generally it takes two or three days at least to do this. Wednesday morning we made Weasisi, and fully expected to get ashore at Kwamera that afternoon. But as we were running past Port Resolution a sudden squall came up, and for that day and the next a sight of Tanna away in the distance was all we had of it. We got ashore safely on Friday, and had our opening meeting the same evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Watt with their usual hospitality made our stay on shore very enjoyable. There being no anchorage there the Dayspring went on to Aneityum. The meeting lasted about a week, and a good amount of business was transacted.

We had been just two weeks on shore and

on the following day the vessel hove in sight. All safely on board again we steered for Aniwa and landed the Patons that night. They remain there until the vessel calls for them on her way south. Next morning, Sabbath, we again cast anchor in Dillon's Bay, and were on shore in time for the native service. The Robertsons are in Sydney at present. What a change at that station from the Sabbath morning, over seventeen years ago, when I for the first time set foot on Erromanga! Then they were at service in a reed church, some little distance up the river. It seemed such a solemn place as we entered. One could read in their countenances, how sad and lonely their hearts were. But a few short months before their noble missionary, J. D. Gordon, had been brutally murdered. I can never forget the tender, pathetic tones of Dr. Geddie's voice as he addressed them through an interpreter.

Now I find them worshipping in the neat Martyr's Memorial Church, a respectful, intelligent looking congregation, and the son of the murderer of Williams conducting the service. Monday morning we set sail with a fine breeze for Erakor, with the promise from Captain Braithwaite that he would put us ashore by moon-light. But there was no Erakor for us that night. When getting near our island the wind rose, and soon the sea was like mountains, and so the ship's head had to be turned seawards. Next morning there was no landing here, so we ran into Fila Harbour.

When the Dayspring left us next morning, she took away two of our young men and their wives, teachers, the one for Mr. Anand and the other for Mr. Gillan, one of the new missionaries.

Were it not for the high death rate amongst our natives, we would feel very much encouraged with the progress of the work. But I do not wish you to infer that this death rate is disheartening us, and it should not discourage you at home. Indeed it should only make us labour all the more zealously while their day of mercy lasts.

In the death of a woman lately taken away we had more satisfaction than we ever previously experienced in the removal of any native. It was a pleasure to visit her, for I always came away feeling my faith on the power of the Gospel stronger. Natives in general, we find, are very reserved as to the state of their mind in prospect of death. They will assent to any question you may ask, as to trusting in the merits of Jesus, etc., but they will seldom enter into conversation with you, as to the state of their hearts. This woman, however, reminded me of believers at home ripening for the Kingdom.