

for heathen. The morning school on week days is also fairly attended by the men and boys. They are only learning reading and writing as yet. The women do not attend school, but we hope soon to get them to come. We are thankful that a few of them come to Church. Poor things they are very low and degraded, it is more difficult to do anything with them than it is with the men. The men do not wish the women to learn to read or sew, etc., for fear they will be unwilling to do their work. Such as dig, plant, yams, cut and carry fire wood and cook their food.

We are a good deal troubled by the labor vessels taking away the natives in these islands. Last week a French vessel was here from Noumea, New Caledonia, and took away twenty of our people, but I am glad to say that none went from this village. They tried to get them to go but they said no: we belong to the Missionary. They buy the people from their friends paying a musket for a man or a woman. A musket and ammunition will get almost anything from the heathen.

Mr. Annand had to interfere in the case of their taking a woman. She got on board in the night leaving her husband to go with another man. Some of the friends came and begged Mr. Annand to go and get her back. They on board would not give her up to them. Mr. Annand went and got plenty of impudence from the French captain. They dare not take her against the wish of the chiefs and friends. However, they got her away by giving a musket to the friends. The poor husband got nothing. This is the fourth time that Mr. Annand has had to go to these vessels to get back women. In the other cases he succeeded in getting them back.

This slave trade is a great curse, it hinders the work of the missionaries a great deal.

Again thanking you all and wishing you every blessing both in your homes and in your work for the Master, and asking you to pray for us, with our united kind regards,

I remain, yours truly,

ALICE M. ANNAND.

STILL ANOTHER LETTER FROM MRS. ANNAND.

SANTO, NEW HEBRIDES.

October 28th, 1889.

My Dear Mrs. McCurdy:

I am thankful to say that I am enjoying fair health just now. After Mr. and Mrs. L. and Mrs. L. returned from the meeting of Synod and learned that I was ill, he kindly came down in his boat to take us up to Malo for a change. I was not

able to go when he came, but we went ten days later and spent eleven days with them. The change did me much good, I have not had much fever since my return home and no neuralgia. Mr. Annand has enjoyed good health this year.

Many thanks for your letter, it cheers us to know that we are not forgotten away out here.

You ask me to let you know when you may send us a parcel of garments, I had forgotten all about your kind offer. We shall not require any children's clothes for some time to come, as we have a great many on hand. A few loose dresses for women made of print and a few print shirts, medium size, for men, would be useful to us. Some of our men take great care of their shirts. I was watching one old man one Sabbath afternoon after coming out of church, he took off his shirt, sat down on the grass to fold it. It took him a long time, he tried it in many ways before it was folded to his satisfaction. At last he got it into a small roll and went off to his home where it would be tied up in leaves and hung up in his house until the next Sabbath. I thought that old man well deserved a shirt. But they are not all so careful of them, as he. We have had a few cases of trading their shirts off to natives on labor vessels for tobacco, however not many have done this.

Though our work is progressing slowly yet we do not feel discouraged, but thankful that God is answering the prayers of so many kind friends in Canada, by putting it into the hearts of these poor dark hearted people to come and listen to his word each Sabbath. Last Sabbath we were remarking that if many more attend we shall be obliged to have a larger building. The church was nearly full and they seemed to feel the heat as well as we, very much. Our next church will have to be larger and a more substantial building, which means some hard work for my husband. The missionaries in this field seem to have so much manual labor to perform.

I am glad to say that quite a number of our women attend church, now, the Chief's wife among the number. We have not got them to attend school as yet. The men and boys attend fairly well. We have them divided into three classes: Mr. Annand has a class of young men and the teacher another, while I have a class of boys. Their progress is slow. We hope to commence another class soon, chiefly for writing and other branches to be held in the afternoons, nearly all the time in the morning is occupied in reading. It is not well to keep them long at one time. Some of them can read a little and write their own names, &c. We hope