

THE NEW HEBRIDES.

In a letter just received from the Rev. Dr. Steele, Sydney, Australia, the Agent of our Church for the New Hebrides Mission, he says:

"There is no indication on the part of the French of removing from the New Hebrides. Events seem to point to permanent occupation. There has not been any direct interference with the missionaries. If the French annex the New Hebrides, the likelihood is that they will bring all instructions of missionaries under their Bureau of Instruction, and insist on teaching of French, so many hours a day. There will not likely for some time be any direct interference with the missionaries. Roman Catholic missionaries are being established on Santo and may be also on some other islands. It is stated that some missionary priests have gone to Fate, on the opposite side of Fila Harbor from Mr. McKenzie. Our Mission was never more hopeful. There is room for half-a-dozen more missionaries. We have fifteen now in the field."

The above extracts while discouraging on account of the confirmation they give to all that has been previously received regarding the permanency of French occupation, are cheering, as regards the extent to which the work is overtaken. Our sympathies and prayers should be called forth on behalf of our missionaries there, especially Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie, who after long sowing and watching and waiting, and just when success seemed crowning their efforts, and the heathen had been gathering in as never before, have the French military station planted in their island and French Roman Catholic priests settling beside them. Their consolation and hope is that "The Lord reigneth."

In a letter to the *Presbyterian Witness*, from Sydney, Australia, under date March 18th, Mr. Annand writes:

"Last Monday morning, the 14th, we landed in this city. Our voyage throughout was a prosperous one. The sea and wind were moderate. We expect to sail hence on Saturday 2nd April. Three missionaries are now in the group awaiting the return of the vessel for their settlement.

"Report says that four priests have been taken to the islands to work among

the natives, two settling on Efato and two on Santo. During the last three days we have been shopping and making out orders for goods. We have arranged for a house and everything needed for the next six months. Times are dull here, and some goods have fallen in price since we last made purchases in this city.

"The General Assembly of New South Wales closed its sitting last night. The Presbyterian Church here is now in a healthy condition—growing rapidly.

"The weather is hot and sultry this summer. A few weeks ago we were almost frozen, and now we are in the other extreme. However, our health is good, and we feel ready for the work.

"Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie have recovered from their illness, or at least by last accounts were able to be about their work. All well at present date."

President McCosh, writing in the April number of the Princeton College *Philadelphian*, gives important and suggestive facts:—Two sons of missionaries (born in India) visited a portion of the colleges of our land, during the past fall and winter, to learn how many students were "willing and desirous to be foreign missionaries." From 92 institutions heard from, the answers came that over 1,525 (over 1,200 young men, and over 300 young women) have offered themselves for this work. Dr. McCosh feels that this uprising of young men and women lays an equal duty upon the churches of the land. In closing, he adds: "For myself, I feel that I have a part to take. I am willing to join with others in finding a way by which the students, the various churches, and all who love Christ, may combine and work so as to take advantage of this great opportunity. Our first duty will be to inquire into the stability of the work. If it be genuine, as I believe it to be, there is an awful responsibility laid upon us in consequence. Has any such offering of living young men and women been presented in our age? in our country? in any age or in any country since the days of Pentecost?"

Mr. S. Medley when expiring said: "I shall die; I shall die and go to glory. Dying is sweet work, I am looking up to my dear Jesus, my God! my portion!" Then with a dying voice, he continued, "Home, home!" till his voice failed.