

dren to be taken—might it not be better for them. She was astonished at such a suggestion, but seemed to think me insane in making it. "Well," I said, "is this world a very happy place, free from toil and trouble?" "Could you wish nothing better for your children than to grow up in a world such as this, to live and labour, suffer and sin, and die as most men do? And is there no better world somewhere else that you must curse God for taking them away?" This seemed to reach home. She laid aside her work and turned toward me to listen; and when on another occasion I called, a neighbour woman asked who I was. She said I was the person who told her that when God took away children, their parents might be sorry, but should not blame God, for His world was far better than this, and He could take better care of the children. Many of them think that children dying before they are Gurak, go to hell (at least for a time), to be born again into some inferior condition. This reminds one of the doctrine that they "see not the light of the Kingdom of Heaven." Others seem to think very little about what becomes of them, or of anybody else.

I must bring this rambling letter to a close. I have just heard that an ordinance has been passed which makes the doctors attending Coolie hospitals government servants, and their appointment is taken out of the hands of the proprietors of estates and transferred to the government. A medical missionary would require to get appointment to hospital work by the government; and it would only be by making application to the government, and waiting till an opening occurred, that anything could be done.

Governor Gordon leaves us in a fortnight. His successor has arrived.

Yours, very truly,

JOHN MORTON.

Rev. P. G. MCGREGOR,  
Sec'y F. M. B.

## NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

### Narrative of Missionary Voyage.

BY REV. JOHN GEDDIE, D. D.

The writer of the following narrative was deputed by his missionary brethren to visit some of the Islands of this group. His voyage was made in the *Dayspring*, during the months of October and November of last year. The islands on which we landed are noticed in their geographical order, and not always in the order in which they were visited.

#### FOTUNA.

Our devoted missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Copeland, were well, and met with in-

creased encouragement in their work. The progress of the mission since last year is decided and visible, and the natives, with few exceptions, are friendly and accessible to the Gospel. Heathenism is now shaken to its basis, and a large number of the natives have taken the side of Christianity. The mission has not attained its present position without a struggle, but we hope that the worst is now over. The Gospel will, at no distant period, triumph on this island, as it has done elsewhere. The progress of Christianity on Fotuna has had an animating influence on the natives of this island, who had begun to despair of the extensive reception of the Gospel on other islands. May God speed the time when Arctium will no longer be an oasis in the moral desert.

#### ANIWA.

The labours of Mr. and Mrs. Paton continue to be followed with the most cheering results. The seed which has been sown on their little island, and watched with anxiety, prayers, and fears, is now yielding fruit to the glory of God. The ordinance of baptism was administered, shortly before our arrival, to twelve persons; and these were formed into a Christian Church, and united for the first time in observing the Lord's Supper. Such results must encourage the friends of the mission, and are intensely cheering to those who have been privileged to take a part in the work of evangelization, and the trials, labours, and perils of years are forgotten before them. The case of this island is an additional assurance to us that in due time we shall reap if we faint not.

#### TANNA.

The natives of Port Resolution, where Mr. and Mrs. Neilson reside, continue to be friendly. The attendance on public worship is still small, but the missionary and teachers visit the surrounding villages, and are well received by the people. The most serious obstacle to the missionary work at present is the prevalence of war. The possession of fire arms and ammunition, with which the natives are supplied by the traders, has been attended with disastrous results, and is fast desolating the island.

The Tanna mission has been strengthened this year by the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Watt, who have settled at the station formerly occupied by the late Mr. and Mrs. Matheson. They have been well received by the natives, and commence their labours with good prospects. Their station is twelve or fourteen miles from Port Resolution, but the natives between the two places are friendly, and communication is frequent.

Messrs. Neilson and Watt made a voyage round the island this season, and were received with civility everywhere, but the