

I am still adding to my Aneityumese vocabulary; and have already written down upwards of 1150 native words. I am also engaged in making an English Aneityumese dictionary. That I may have comprised in this, at least all the words contained in the authorized version of the English Bible, I take as my guide Cruden's Concordance. I have not yet attempted to make a Grammar of this language, but have acquired, I think from observation and otherwise, a pretty thorough knowledge of its principal laws. It is a very peculiar language. For example, it has three numbers, viz., Singular, Dual and Trial, and Pronouns inclusive and exclusive, principles of Grammar which of course, render the verb correspondingly complex. The Aneityumese has also prominent suffixes and verbal directives, defines, and states construct, and absolute similar to those of the Hebrew and other Oriental languages. Then there is a multitude of idiomatic phrases which can be acquired, only by patient practice.

#### PROGRESS OF NATIVES.

The natives have ever been friendly to us since we came among them, but I am sorry to say, that there are still "divisions," among themselves; mutual animosities and jealousies between different parties have ever been a source of annoyance and grief to us since we began our intercourse with them. I know of nothing that can destroy this demon of discord among them but the pacific power of the Gospel. But they seem to be all at one, so far as respect for us, and appreciation of our services are concerned. In token of their good will to us they came to our premises recently, and celebrated a great feast in honour of our little George.

I have been gratified of late, with some of them coming to me, with New Testament in hand, to inquire of me the meaning of certain passages of Scripture. I was pleased also, a few weeks ago, to hear one of the elders, in addressing the prayer meeting, refer to the good change which had taken place in his own views and feelings respecting spiritual things. O that the Omnific Breath of the Lord would breathe on all the souls, so that they might be heard, in large numbers crying, "What must I do to be saved?" And again, "Come and hear all ye that fear God, and I will declare what He hath done for my soul."

Pray for us that we may be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, that though but worms in ourselves, yet, through *that might*, we may thresh the mountains, and that through our instrumentality many may be turned from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive the forgiveness of sins, and an

inheritance among them that are sanctified, through faith which is in Jesus Christ.

Every faithfully yours,

JAS. D. MURRAY.

Rev. P. G. McGregor, Sec'y. For. Mission,  
of P. Ch., L. P., B. N. A.

Letter from Rev. John Inglis.

ANEITYUM, NEW HEBRIDES, }  
Nov. 8th, 1873. }

REV. P. G. MCGREGOR, HALIFAX :

*My Dear Sir,*—Yours of February 1st, I received on the 4th of June. We are all much gratified by the practical answer which you gave to our appeal for more missionaries. From all that we have seen and heard we are very favourably impressed with the three brethren and their wives whom you have sent us. Mr. and Mrs. Murray have been co-operating with us on this island for eighteen months, and we have found them very workable, and very agreeable co-adjustors. They are both standing the climate well, are applying themselves earnestly to their work, are being well liked by the natives, and are likely to succeed well in the mission. Mr. Murray is getting on well with the language. If they are preserved in life and health, there will be no danger of any of the work accomplished by Dr. and Mrs. Geddie being lost through any neglect of theirs. It will be taken up where it was left, and carried vigorously forward. I am thankful to say that my wife and I are well. I am very busy with the translation of the latter half of the Old Testament, I am as far as the 14th chapter of Jeremiah. From that to the end of Ezekiel is all that remains to be done. Mr. Copeland has translated the latter half of Daniel and all the minor prophets except Jonah. The first half of Daniel and Jonah were translated and printed by Dr. Geddie. There is, however, a great deal of revision still to be done. But Mr. Copeland is doing all in his power to assist in this. Dr. Geddie's last work of this kind was revising the translation of Job. The first half had been carefully examined by him, and many improvements made on it, but in the latter half the evidences of declining strength were only too visible. Owing to the long interruptions, caused by the Doctor's other labours, the printing had advanced only to the latter part of Exodus, when it was stopped. I am most anxious, if it please the Lord, to see the whole of the Old Testament printed in the Aneityumese language before I die. I have great faith in the Word of God in the mission field. I believe, that, under God, our success on Aneityum was largely due to our giving the Word of God so freely to the natives, and teaching them to read it. Dr. Geddie and I were at one on this point. His knowledge of printing