

sions on Tana will be resumed at no distant period. As the field of labour here is somewhat arduous, I trust that young missionaries will count well the cost before leaving home. There is a romance about missionary life when viewed from a distance, but that all disappears when its stern realities are realized. A disappointed man is not likely to be either comfortable or useful. As regards myself I can truly say that I have never once regretted coming to these islands. If I had my life to live over it would be devoted to foreign missions, and the New Hebrides would be my chosen field of labour. If you find suitable men willing to come to these islands, and are in circumstances to send them, don't delay sending them until we can report open doors to you. If there are no stations ready for them to occupy when they arrive, let them help to open islands for themselves. It is a serious loss to young missionaries not to see heathenism in all its unmitigated horrors, and before it has been stripped of some of its worst abominations, by the direct or indirect influence of Christianity. It would be well also to know something of the privations, the sufferings and the dangers of our native teachers in their first intercourse with the heathen, and this would not fail to inspire kindly feelings towards them, and sentiments of gratitude to God for what he does through them. A familiarity and personal interest in the work from its commencement on any island could not fail to be useful to the missionary who would occupy it.

NEW PUBLICATION ON WESTERN POLYNESIA.

I may mention here that a missionary work on Western Polynesia is about to appear. The author is the Rev A. W. Murray, formerly of Sumatra, and connected with the London Missionary Society for twenty five years. He has been familiar with the missionary work on these islands from its commencement, and no man is in more favorable circumstances to give a correct account of it. The work will contain a history of the missions on the New Hebrides and Loyalty Islands, from the time the first visit was made to them until the close of last year. The account of the Aneityum mission occupies perhaps the most prominent place in the book. I have examined the manuscript, and as far as I can judge it is a correct history of the mission on these islands, and well written. It will be published in London and Sydney, size about 500 pages, with a few illustrations, the price about ten shillings. The object of the work is to awaken an interest in these islands, and if this end is gained, the author's wishes will be realized. May God bless this tribute to his cause. I trust that it may have a wide circulation in Nova Scotia.

KINDNESS OF SANDAL WOOD TRADERS.

I have often had occasion to mention annoyance and trials caused by sandal wood traders, and it would be ungenerous not to notice our obligations to them. The missions on these islands are much indebted to Capt Burns of Sydney, who has two vessels employed in the trade, for many acts of kindness. Those in his employment have instructions to avoid interference with us in our work, and to oblige us when it is in their power to do so. His establishment was formerly on Wea, but has been removed to this island. Before leaving Wea he made a present of his premises to the London Missionary Society, which was acknowledged by a vote of thanks by our brethren there. When the mission on Tana was in danger in February last, we could not relieve them, as the "John Knox" was baffled up, being the middle of the hurricane season. I mentioned our case to the agent here, and he immediately sent off a vessel, at much inconvenience to himself, to bring Mr Paton and Mr and Mrs Matheson to this island. He would not receive any remuneration for this kind deed, and thinks that his employer, to whom the matter has been referred, will not either. In the mean time, a few pounds have been given to the men on board the vessel for their kindness, and to encourage them in deeds of humanity. I may mention also that all mission supplies to this group are brought gratis from Sydney in Capt. Burn's vessels. It is the person alluded to in a former part of this letter, who has promised £25 sterling for our missionary vessel if she is built in Australia. As a man of business he feels his obligations to Christian missions, and regards it as his interest as well as duty to encourage them.