

New Hebrides.

NEW HEBRIDES MISSION VESSEL "DAYSRING."

The "Dayspring" is the vessel employed in carrying on the work of Christian Missions among the Islands of the New Hebrides. The Group consists of about thirty islands, nearly all of which are inhabited. Missions in connection with several distinct branches of the Presbyterian Church have been carried on in this Group for the last forty years. There are at present in connection with the Mission, THIRTEEN European Missionaries, and about ONE HUNDRED Native Teachers.

The "Dayspring" is the only regular means of communication between one Island and another, and between the Islands and the Colonies. She comes to Sydney twice a year for supplies for the Mission families; and she spends several months every year in visiting, both those that are Christianised and those that are still heathen. Her expenses are about £1,800 a year; these are paid by the united contributions of the Presbyterian Sabbath Schools of Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand. The Schools in Canada and Scotland also contribute a part.

The affairs of the Mission Vessel are managed by a Board in Sydney, appointed by the New Hebrides Mission Synod.

The Board consists of the following gentlemen:—

REV. DR. FULLERTON, *Chairman*.
REV. DR. STEEL.
REV. R. S. PATERSON.
REV. JOSEPH COPELAND.
J. H. GOODLET, Esq.
GEORGE DUNCAN, Esq.
ALEX. KETHEL, Esq., M. L. A.
REV. JAMES COSH, M. A., *Secretary*.

REPORT OF THE MISSION VESSEL "DAYSRING," 1885.

During the past year the "Dayspring" made two trips from Sydney to the Islands. On the first occasion she left Sydney on the 1st April, taking with her as passengers the Rev. H. A. Robertson and Mrs. Robertson of Eromanga, the Rev. J. H. Lawrie and Mrs. Lawrie of Aneityum, and the Rev. Charles Murray and Mrs. Murray of Ambim. Her first port of call was Aneityum, which she

reached on the 17th of April. Having landed Mr. and Mrs. Lawrie and their goods at Aneityum she proceeded northwards, calling and landing goods at Futuna, Kwamera, Weasisi, Dillon's Bay, Fila Harbor, Havannah Harbor, Nguna, Tongoa, Epi and Ambim, she then returned to Anelghauhat, Aneityum, which she reached on the 26th of May. Having spent a few days watering and re-fitting, she proceeded again northwards, calling at all the mission stations and taking on board missionaries and teachers for the meeting of Synod.

On the 24th of June the Synod met at Epi, and on the 13th of July the "Dayspring" started for Ambim, where Mr. and Mrs. Murray were put ashore on the 14th. She then proceeded southwards calling at all the mission stations and landing the missionaries and teachers, and doing other mission work. Having received the Rev. Mr. Watt and Mrs. Watt, and also Rev. Mr. Michelsen and Mrs. Michelsen on board, with several teachers, a visit was paid to a number of outlying stations where teachers are working or are wanted, and the vessel returned to Anelghauhat on the 28th of August, left for Sydney on the 29th, and reached Sydney on the 11th of September.

On the second trip of the year the "Dayspring" left Sydney on September 26th, reached Aneityum on October 7th, made two visits to each of the mission stations, landing stores and receiving mails, conveyed native teachers to outlying stations on Epi, Mokura, Mai and other places, and sailed again for Sydney, which she reached on the 21st of December.

In the course of the year the "Dayspring" experienced several times severe gales, but under the good Providence of God by careful management she was kept free from injury, and was able to accomplish fairly well the work which was required of her. In view, however, of the increased demands arising from the expansion of the work in the Northern Islands and the increase in the number of missionaries shortly expected from Scotland, it has been felt by the Synod that something should be done to provide greater facility for carrying on the work than is afforded by the present "Dayspring." With this end in view a minute was passed, a copy of which is appended to this report, requesting the "Dayspring" Board in Sydney to make full and careful enquiry