

Letter from Rev. J. Goodwill to the Rev. A. W. Herdman.

ANEITYUM, Dec. 22, 1870.

*My Dear Sir,*—I received your favour of June 15th last night by a mail from Sydney. I assure you that we eagerly looked over its contents, it being the only letter I have got since I left home.

I have just returned from Santo a few days ago. I have selected a mission station at Cape Lisbourne, on the top of a hill, where I had much hard labour in clearing away the giant forest. I had once or twice the appearance of fever and ague, but quinine completely brought it under control; but on the other hand, I suffered very much from boils on my feet and legs; while suffering from these the poor natives would bring food for me all ready prepared for eating; they saw that my cook did not prepare my food as she should; they thought it good that Missi should be provided with their own food. This was very considerate for naked savages, who have no idea of the Being of God. They believe, however, that there are demons, evil spirits and ghosts; they are as superstitious as any Roman Catholic; they fear to go out after dark; they say that these evil spirits take particular delight in tormenting them, and after death to drag them down into a great fire, and so on. On hearing about Jehovah, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, and that God was good and gracious, and delighted in doing good, and that Jehovah cannot die, nor sleep, and that he is everywhere present beholding the evil and the good, they were very much astonished and wished to know more about Jehovah.—I endeavoured to instruct them as much as I could, partly in their own language and partly in sandal-wood English.—The natives of Santo, as far as I have made their acquaintance, are a very interesting people. They seem kind and gentle; they are good to their women and children. The chiefs in and around Cape Lisbourne seem to be as much concerned about my things as about their own; so far I have completely won their hearts. It is hard to say how long this feeling may continue. I trust that God will enable me so to act as to give them no reason for ill-will or provocation, but always have their good graces. The females are in a perfect state of nudity,

except a small tuft of grass or a few leaves they use. I hope that before long we shall have more missionaries from Nova Scotia for Santo.

JOHN GOODWILL.

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## Notes of the Week.

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The foreign news both of the week and the month may be summed up in the one word, Paris. Few, except those who have seen her in her pride, can have any idea of the greatness of her fall. The modern tragedy has been enacting before our eyes all last month, and the telegraph has made us acquainted with every change in every act. But many of us have been less affected than we would be by an hour's sickness of a child, unaware that the mightiest and most instructive moral lesson of the age has just been read to us if only we had ears to hear. And not only has Paris fallen, but she has dragged all France with her. A year ago, and France proudly thought she could have stood against the world. Now so partial and critic of her failings, as the *Saturday Review* says, that she is of as little account to-day in European politics as Spain or Portugal.

By this week all the great Church Courts that meet in May have adjourned till next year, though as yet we know little of what they have done. We ought to have, by this time, all the proceedings of the U. P. Synod that meets in Edinburgh early in May: and an account of at least the first days of the General Assemblies that meet soon after. But the Messrs. Inman seem to have no ambition to put their best foot hindmost; not even the honest pride of the old lady, who always exhorted her coachman to 'keep a trot for the avenue'; and so, on this third day of June, the Scotch newspapers of latest date in Halifax are those of May 6th. We have, however, all the news of the General Assembly of the Church in the United States, which this year has met in Chicago at the same time as the Assemblies of our Scottish Churches; and if space were allowed us, we would like to call attention to much of its work.