

The above was written to the *Presbyterian Witness*. In a later note, of date October 22, 1891, to Rev. A. J. Mowatt, Mr. Annand says:—

"We have had exciting times of late. I assume you will see the letter I wrote to the *Witness* about the affair. We have learned very little more about the native side of the affair since the morning of the murder. The murder has not been popular with the bushmen generally. One day a party from another district set out to make war upon the murderers, but a heavy rain coming on wet their powder, so they decided to return and wait for a time to see what the man-of-war will do.

"Two weeks and a half ago H. M. S. Cordelia came in and took Malcolm's statement and such other information as I was able to supply upon the subject, and then sailed away to consult the joint commission for the New Hebrides. Whether anything will be done to bring the offenders to justice or not I cannot say.

"A week later H. M. S. Goldfinch, with Sir John B. Thurston, the Governor of Fiji and Lord High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, on board, arrived. He also heard the statement of the murder. It is now nearly six weeks since Sawyers was shot, and nothing whatever has been done to show the natives that they are likely to be punished for the crime.

All have been quiet about here since, but of course less confidence is now placed in the natives. They are all so horribly, deceitful and treacherous that no one knows what next may happen.

"You congratulate me on the success of our work. How I wish that we had success. I am sorry to inform you that our lads are not doing as well as they did some time ago. There is a constant influence of evil brought to bear upon them by the people of the village in an underhand way that is very annoying. All openly profess to be our friends but secretly they are doing all they can to obstruct and neutralize the gospel influence for good. The three lads who were taking part in our Wednesday evening prayer meeting have all so far relapsed that I do not now give any of them an opportunity of praying aloud in our meetings. We hope and pray that we may yet see them all at the feet of Jesus. However, in the meantime we can only wait and pray. I may soon find it necessary to dismiss one or more of them from our premises, they are getting so disobedient and indifferent to good conduct.

"Last night our three females all fled to the village, so I went out and locked their house. This morning they were back again wanting to be restored, so they have got another probation Simon, my eldest teacher came to me this evening with a report that our youngest lad has been talking badly about the gospel and the mission. So master Bomoli got a lecturing to-night

in measured terms. Thus you see we have our trials here also.

October 28th.

"Our lads became more rebellious and for two days two of them were on strike, but they finally came back and entreated to be reinstated to favor. So now all is going on smoothly again. The whole male population of the village came with a present of yams to us to show us that they do not wish us to leave them yet.

"Pray for us and for these people.

"Yours fraternally,

"JOSEPH ANNAND."

LETTER FROM MRS. JOSEPH ANNAND

TO MRS. MOWATT.

TANGOA, SANTO, October 21st, 1891.

MY DEAR SISTER,—Before this reaches you you will, doubtless, have heard of the fearful murder committed three miles from us by the natives from the hills. I am not going to tell you anything about it, as I cannot bear to think about it. Poor Mr. Sawyers was a very nice man, and we were so pleased to have such nice neighbors live near us. Mrs. Sawyers, his widow, is still with us; also his companion, Mr. Malcolm. They expect to leave for Sydney this month. She will return home to Scotland. There seems to have been no cause for the murder, except the hatred of the hill tribes to white people. They say that they will kill all the white people they can get.

Last month was the saddest and most trying one that we have experienced since coming to the islands. The sad, sad case of poor Mrs. Leggatt! She hanged herself while out of her mind. She had not been in good health for some time, and felt so sorely the death of her baby (her first), which occurred this year, when we were all in Aneityum at Synod!

Then we were so shocked in having a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Laurie, the Free Church of Scotland missionaries in Aneityum, to find her quite insane and having to be watched all the time, as she seemed ready to take her life at any time. We heard by last mail that she was a little better, but not right. It was brought on through poor health.

I must not forget to tell you that the box from Fredericton reached us safely.

We shall feel lonely this summer when our friends leave us, and Mr. and Mrs. Landells, of Malo, go up to Sydney for six months. I have been wishing that we could get away for a change. If spared we shall likely go to Sydney next year on furlough.

With love and good wishes to all,

ALICE M. ANNAND.