

common house. We parted after a short address and prayer. The chief of another boat harbour, *Bunker* came also to see us. I promised if all were well, I should go back next year to see them. The slavers were here also and had taken ten or so and a chief. *Ten moons* had elapsed and none of their friends had returned. At *Bunkhill*, the chief's brother and several of his subjects swam out to meet us, I suppose as a token of joy and respect. I addressed 36 of them, men and boys, under a large rock, they were very attentive indeed. The chief of *Bunkhill*, is a cousin of the man who ordered the Gordon's to be killed. The murderer of Mrs. G. resides there and the other murderer is in the same neighbourhood.

The attendance on Sabbath is larger than I have seen it. Upwards of 60 are sometimes present. We, too, have felt all along the need of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, both on ourselves and upon the natives, but more especially did we feel this at the beginning of this year—hence we agreed to meet daily for prayer at noon, in order to plead for the blessed Spirit, and I think we have been much refreshed thereby. Oh! to be taught daily, strengthened daily by the ever blessed Spirit of God.

You will see from the March No. of the *Christian Review*, Melbourne, that my good friend, the Rev. George Mackie, has undertaken to provide a Mission boat for me. I shall expect her down by the *Dayspring* next year. A lady through Mr. Kay, has just sent me £40 for the same or a similar object. That sum I have ordered Dr. Steel to deposit in a respectable bank in Sydney, until I see a proper outlet for it for Mission purposes.

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To the Rev. P. G. MacGregor,
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New Hebridean Sketches.

No. IV.

In my last sketch there are four misprints. For "nom" read "com." "Go to Aname with the Missionary." Should have been "Go to Aname will the Missionary." For "Anatildi," read "Auatia-ldi" in both instances.

It may seem strange to describe the position of the New Hebrides in my fourth instead of in my first sketch, but hitherto I have been speaking of Aneityum for the most part. Now, Mr. Printer, don't twist "y" in "Aneityum" into "e" as you have hitherto done.

The New Hebrides Isles are about 1200 miles due north of New Zealand, and stretch from 15° to 20° South lat. and from 165° 10' 170° East long.

They number about 40 varying in appearance and size, Aneityum being the most southing and Santo the most northerly in the group. They lie in a northwesterly direction from Aneityum, and hence with the South-east trade wind, vessels going north can touch in at all the islands without much difficulty.

The islands of this group are all of volcanic formation, and on Tanna there is an active volcano from which there is an eruption every five minutes. At night the flash of light from this volcano is seen from Aneityum and its noise heard like the booming of a cannon.

These islands being, I have said, of volcanic formation, are very fertile and very beautiful. Around each island there is an outlying coral reef, forming a natural breakwater, through which there are openings for canoes and boats and in some instances sufficiently large for ships to pass through to the harbours enclosed within those reefs. Between this reef and the shore there is a clear sheet of water, varying from one half to a mile in width, which is the natives' proper fishing ground. However rough it may be outside of this breakwater, it is (except during a hurricane) quite calm inside. When sailing over this clear sheet of water, you can distinctly see the bottom paved with white, green, red, blue, and purple coral. Even where there may be fifty feet of water over it, yet so clear and transparent is the water that fishes in great numbers, varying in form and size and of endless shades and colours, are seen gracefully swimming over this pavement of coral, down through openings here and up through openings there.

The seashores are skirted with white sand shells and coral. From the seashore to the mountains there is a broad belt of level, porous, rich land, on which the natives live, build their houses, and make their plantations, and here too the cocanut tree, the bread-fruit tree, the orange, lime, lemon, horsechestnut, rose-apple, and papaw-apple trees grow and besides these they cultivate the yam, taro, sweet potatoes, Bananas, plantain, indian corn, pine-apples, sugar cane, Kava plant, with a few others on this low land.

From the foot of the mountains up half way, the sloping sides are covered with a variety of trees, reeds and grass. In the distance those grassy hill sides look like mown fields, but as you approach nearer you find the grass, or seeds with grassy tops six or seven feet high.

After this you arrive on the top of the mountain peaks, very high, and now after a weary tramp for three hours under the glare of the noon-day sun in all its brightness, you are amply rewarded as you behold