

New Hebrides.

Letter from Rev. J. W. McKenzie.

ERAKOR, Euate, Aug. 4th, 1885.

My Dear Brother :

I wrote you a hurried note on July 2nd expecting that the *Danspring* would be well on her way to Sydney by this time. It was found, however, that there would not be time for her to go to Raratonga, so when the meeting of the Mission Synod was over, she returned the Missionaries to their stations, and then returned to Ambrim to gather mails, orders, etc., on her way South for Sydney. She will be here for ours in the course of a week. Our arrowroot is ready to send on board. We have 1618 lbs. this year.

Mr. Gray, one of the Tanna Missionaries, left his wife and two children with me, while he was away north at the meeting. As he was going away I said to him, "You need not feel anxious about your family, we will take good care of them." But how little do we know what a day may bring forth. He had not been gone very long when the elder of the children, a fine little boy of about three years, was taken ill of dysentery. It seemed to be an epidemic, as it was that our youngest child had, which prevented me from going to the annual meeting, and several of the native children had it, one of whom died. Ewm Gray's attack was not very severe, however, and with the blessing of God on the means used he soon recovered.

In the course of a week or so his little sister, about a year old, took it, and her's was a very severe attack. For a day or two I almost despaired of her life. Wishing to try a different kind of medicine, but of which I had none I sent a native across to Hav. Harbor to see if it could be got there and with a note for Mr. Gray, telling him to come round with all speed on his arrival there. But to our great delight the child began to improve before the native returned.

A week ago last Monday I went over land to Hav. Harbor for the first time. The distance is about twenty miles. The interior is very mountainous, rendering the walking somewhat fatiguing. As you approach the other side the sight that breaks on your view from the top of the last mountain is very fine. The harbor formed by Protection and Deception

Islands, like a placid lake, lies at our feet. Away beyond in clear outline, rising on the bosom of the ocean, are islands beyond islands as far as the eye can reach.

The population inland is very sparse indeed. It was sad as we passed along to hear the natives who accompanied me point out one place after another as spots where villages once stood. As I already informed you, quite a number have moved down nearer us and received the gospel. The same is the case at Mr. Macdonald's side. I believe that before many years the few scattered villages left will all move down. We have an accession every few weeks.

When a native wishes to move he sends word to the Christian village, and they go in a body and bring what little property he has, and they supply him with food until he has a plantation of his own. It is for the like of these that we find Mission goods so acceptable, as they have no way of getting clothes for themselves.

My principal object in going to Hav. Harbor was to consult with Mr. Macdonald about the language, as we are only making one translation. Found him and Mrs. Macdonald well, but their children had been suffering a good deal from fever. At the Wednesday evening prayer meeting baptized the youngest.

Next morning we began to retrace our steps. Mr. Macdonald and a number of his natives accompanied us to his new village formed by the natives who moved down to his side from the mountains. There literally the halt and the blind have come to the feast. I only saw one of the latter class—an old man who was led there by the hand. It really did me good to speak to and shake hands with the poor old fellow. He seemed so happy and so pleased that we went to see him. They brought us a mat and we sat down under the shade of a tree. It was a beautiful spot for a village and nature was lavish with her gifts. At a little distance there was a fine stream of water, and some of them could get breakfast or dinner without moving a yard from their hut. They had only to get a long pole and knock down a breadfruit which possibly might roll into the hut as it fell. They knew of our coming and had food prepared for us.

As we were leaving they gave the natives who accompanied me a present of mats and other articles. When about