

NEW HEBRIDES.

THE Rev. J. Annand, on his way from Canada, writes from Sydney, N.S.W., on 22nd March, 1887, as follows:—

Will you allow me to say a word to our friends through your columns? Many of those who saw and heard us during our furlough are still interested in our wanderings. Leaving Nova Scotia on the 19th January, we passed through Montreal two days later, and on out to Chicago, where we remained over Sabbath until the Monday night. While in that city, we heard two addresses from Mr. Moody; the theme of the first was "Thou art not far from the Kingdom of God," and that of the other, "The dwelling places of the Holy Spirit." The latter especially was a powerful discourse. Leaving Chicago, we did not again rest until we reached San Francisco, but there we had to stay longer than we anticipated. This delay, however, gave us a fine opportunity of seeing the city, and becoming acquainted with some noble Christian workers there. Early in the morning of the 18th February, we steamed out through the Golden Gate into the broad Pacific. Our fine boat, the "Mariposa," soon began that characteristic motion which landsmen detest. Many of our passengers manifested their detestation in the old-fashioned way. Six days' rapid steaming brought us to the beautiful islands of the Hawaiian Kingdom. During our eight hours' stay in Honolulu, we met with great kindness from friends, and learned much of interest about the Lord's work there. All good people regret exceedingly the foolish and wicked course followed by the King. This is a time of trial in the Church there. On our voyage, we called at the Island of Tutuila, in the Samoa group, but there being no time to land, we saw nothing of the home life of the Samoans. An afternoon and evening were spent in Auckland, and thence we came on to this city, arriving here in twenty-three days' sailing from San Francisco. Since arriving here, we have been busy making arrangements for our starting life anew in the New Hebrides. House, stores and goods of various kinds have been ordered. Next week (D. V.) we sail for the islands. The "Cairndhu" (a three-masted schooner) has been chartered to accompany the "Dayspring," as the latter is too small to carry all goods required this year. In my next letter I hope to inform our friends of our safe arrival and settlement on the Island of Santo.

We learn from Efate that Mr. Mackenzie's youngest child died in the winter, and that both Mr. and Mrs. M. had been very ill of fever. They were better when the last news arrived. Four Roman Catholic priests settled in the islands, two on Efate and two on Santo. The French grip in the islands seems to be firmer

than ever. Mr. Annand has taken with him materials for a house and supplies for six months.

FRENCH PERSECUTION IN THE PACIFIC.

The treatment awaiting our brethren in the New Hebrides, should the group be annexed by France, may be inferred from what the French have done and are doing in the Loyalty group. Rev. E. J. Jones, of Maré, says:—In 1864 the French annexed the islands, and commenced a series of relentless persecutions against the Protestant minister and his flock. As the *Argus* summarizes the matter:—"The story is very simple. Frenchmen rule in the Loyalty Islands, and to them an English missionary is a criminal doubly detestable, first as an Englishman, and then as a heretic. To the French missionary priests, or Marist Brothers, Mr. Jones was, of course, an intruder, a misleader of the natives, and a candidate for eternal perdition in the next world. These are opinions about Protestant missionaries which any one is entitled to hold. The point is that in none of the Pacific Islands, except in French territory and under the rule of the French Republic, can the most bigoted hater of Protestants act upon them." Here is an example of the way in which French authorities discourage Protestant converts:—"At the New Year's special prayer-meeting, after the manner of the Evangelical Alliance, the churches being all closed, the people flocked to attend at his church. The French lieutenant, however, sent the chief men on their side to forbid the people to worship there. The people replied, 'The church is allowed by the Government to be used as a public place of worship, and we see no objection to our attending.' They were met at the doors of the church as they went out of it, and their hands were tied behind them, and they were carried before the chief. He knocked them down, kicked them with his heavy boots in the mouth, breaking their teeth, beat them with heavy bludgeons, and dashed heavy stones upon them as they lay helpless with their hands tied behind them. Their feet were then lashed together and they were laid upon a cold, mortar floor all night, no covering or food of any kind being given them. In the morning, the floor was saturated with blood, which had flowed during the night from their wounds. Next morning they were compelled to walk to the chief's residence, about ten miles, without any breakfast being given to them, and they were afterwards cast into prison, and taken to New Caledonia. Women, too, were kicked and beaten for attending the services. The people, terrified, fled to hiding-places in the bush, but the chief, under the direction of the French lieutenant, sent armed men to hunt them down, with orders to shoot any who might run away. Much of their property was seized, their plantations were destroyed, and their live stock killed."