

piece of hardwood for a post for Mr. Annand's veranda.

The Lauries were well. They and the Annands were encouraged in the good work in Anoitum. The Watts and Grays were on Tanna and were also hopeful. The Grays had only been about a month settled. I had not until then seen Mr. and Mrs. Gray and I was favorably impressed with them. Mr. Gray is going to make an excellent missionary—thoroughly educated, in the prime of life, strong, energetic, kind, and earnest. May their labors be much blessed on dark Tanna, which is still very dark, but at length there is a sound of abundance of rain. The Neilsons as you doubtless know have resigned their connection with the mission and have gone to Melbourne where Mr. Neilson has entered the Victorian Church as a probationer.—While in Melbourne for two days we saw Mr. Patton and family (Mr. P. was away giving addresses on Mission work) and spent a night with them.

Mrs. R. and myself were much pleased with our short visit in Melbourne. Mrs. Patton was, Mrs. Patton like, extremely kind to us.

I called on Dr's. McDonald and McMillan and was very glad to find them at home. Dr. McDonald I need not introduce for he will ever be remembered by the friends of the N. H. Mission and the dear old Day Spring with love and gratitude. Dr. McMillan was my physician in my illness while passing through Melbourne on our way to the Mission field in 1872 and under God I owe my life to his skill and unwavering care.

Of course we saw Dr. Steele frequently and as usual, he endeavoured to make our visit as profitable and pleasant as possible. It is no small matter to have a gentleman of Dr. Steele's fine spirit and decided interest in all Christian work for so many years the Agent of our New Hebrides Mission.

By the Day Spring in April Revd's Milne, Macdonald, Murray and Gunn will be going to the Mission field and probably one other Missionary from the F. Church. Mr. Patton is earnestly pleading the cause of the N. H. Mission and the Day Spring fund, and with his former success. Mr. Copeland is still editor of *The Presbyterian*. He is in fair health and able to get through his daily task, but he said he could not boast of great strength. He may go down next month to assist at Dr. Gunn's settlement on Futuna.

We left in the field Messrs. Annand

Laurie, Watt, Gray, Mackenzie, Nicholson and Fraser. They were all in fair health and, the work in the whole field encouraging—especially so at several of the Mission Stations and our own Erromanga among them. The Christian natives of Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie's field of labor gave them a very hearty reception. They gave them a welcome present of yams and a pig and a like present to the Day Spring people for having brought back to them their Missionaries.

We found it most trying to tear our selves away from the Promergans, but especially trying to leave even for a time those who had clung to the Word from the days of the Gordon's and McNair, and those also who had been brought out of Egyptian darkness during our never-to-be forgotten eleven years on that historic Island. May the spirit be poured out upon them.

We left Sydney on the 20th of January, touching at Melbourne and Adelaide. We have, with much pleasure passed through the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea, Suez Canal and the Mediterranean and have entered the Northern Atlantic.—The sweltering heat of the Red Sea kindly kept away and we were favored with delightfully cool weather. In the Canal the weather was bitterly cold.—What a waste country on our right and on our left!

We coaled at the Island of Diego Garcia, Indian Ocean, where I landed with a party of five, in one of the ship's boats to visit the Island, which we found densely covered everywhere with the Coconut Tree and these most prolific. Yes, Coconuts by the thousand in a space of one hundred square feet, but very few other trees worth looking at. The Island is of coral formation.

We also coaled at Port Said where the natives (Arabs) put 50 tons of coal on board, carried it in large baskets on their backs, in six hours. We landed at Port Said and enjoyed ourselves immensely in the town for three hours, and among other places of interest we visited an Arab Public School, that it was in a corner of the public street, out doors, where a would-be pedagogue was applying a cane of over six feet in length, to the heads and backs of about 40 Arab boys, of from 7 to 10 years of age, who were writing Arabic on wooden slates, and calling to us for "balshceesh" (money.) Swarms of boys and men, some with donkeys and some with trinkets followed us all through the town offering to hire their shaggy