

of Sydney, in natives of the New Hebrides, who years ago left their homes in labor and other vessels, and have found their way to that city. They are taught to read (in English, of course) and write, and are instructed in a simple way in the grand truths of the Gospel. As the result of this several are from time to time admitted to the church. Last Sabbath Dr. Steel

BAPTIZED NINE OF THEM.

We are now hoping to see the French WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS.

A late telegram says that the British and French cabinets have signed a code of rules in connection with the appointment of a mixed commission for the New Hebrides; and the French troops are to evacuate the group when the regulations of the commission reach Noumea. We will now wait anxiously to see the result.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS

were still on the mainland of our island, opposite to Meli, when we left. According to all accounts they were not doing anything amongst the natives. The Meli people, so far, will have nothing to do with them.

Some time ago one of these priests visited these settlers—one of them a Portuguese the other a Malayan, who live across the lagoon from us, both of whom belong to the R. C. Church—to enquire if their children had been baptized. Finding they were not he offered to baptize them. I may say that the three eldest children had been coming to school to Mrs. Mackenzie for about two years. The priest had been made aware of this, and to this fact may be attributed his anxiety to have them baptized. His offer, however, was not accepted. He was put off by being told that they would consider it.

A few days afterwards they came to me to see if I would not baptize their children. Of course I told them I could not, and I at the same time endeavored to explain to them that mere baptism could not of itself be of any avail, but that something was necessary on the part of the parent. I then told them that although they had sent their children to us, giving us permission to instruct them in the truths of the Gospel, they were their own to do as they saw fit with them, and if they wished to have them baptized by the

priests we could not prevent them; but at the same time I told them that we were very willing to go on instructing their children, and if, when they grew old enough, should they desire baptism for themselves, I would gladly baptize them. To this they consented, and said they would not have them baptized by the priest.

The work at our station was gradually progressing when we left. I had a letter a week or two ago from one of the natives telling us of

AN ACCIDENT FROM DYNAMITE

that happened to one of our young men, by which he lost his hand. He was throwing a charge amongst a shoal of fish and had his hand so badly shattered that the French doctor had to amputate it.

This was the first serious accident that has happened to them all the years we have been amongst them. I have been warning them against using dynamite, but as no accident had occurred they thought there was no danger. Hope this will have the desired effect.

We felt sorry leaving our poor people. Between

TWO AND THREE HUNDRED

of them were on the beach to say good-bye, many of them in tears, and numbers came off in canoes to the vessel. They loaded us with pine apples, bananas and fresh coconuts for the voyage and gave the captain a hog and a quantity of yams. I may say that since we returned from Nova Scotia over five years ago they have been giving yearly a present of yams to the *Day-spring*, besides supplying us gratis with all the yams we require.

We had the sad tidings a few weeks ago of dear father's death. I was in a measure prepared for it from previous letters. Although we cannot help sorrowing, yet we are comforted by the thought that he was so long maturing for the home above. Many thanks for your kind words of sympathy, and your assurance of continued interest in our work. Mrs. Mackenzie joins me in very kind regards.

I remain yours sincerely,

J. W. MACKENZIE.

Holiness consists of two things, two endeavors—the endeavor to know God's will, and the endeavor to do it when we know.