

among the natives of Port Resolution, on account of the death of a young man of some importance. One man was killed, and the other wounded. About 100, to escape from the enemy, fled in a trading vessel to Aniwa. Mr. Watt had his school house and church blown down by the hurricane, in January. The natives about Qwamera had all their breadfruit and chestnuts destroyed, and there has been a good deal of ill-will and fighting, on this account. One man was killed from this cause. Our natives are living in peace, so far as we know, just now. But brotherly love is not by any means so prevalent among them as it ought to be. They are peculiarly susceptible of mutual jealousies. We are kept very busy reproving, rebuking and exhorting them; but feel deeply that it is only the spirit of God who can render our words mighty to doing them good. There have been several cases of seduction on the island of late. Some of the culprits were punished by the chiefs' beating them, others by being fined, others by being tied and talked to, which is considered a terrible disgrace. But we need not be surprised at a low morality among these people when our own fellow-countrymen behave themselves so basely as they do in this ocean. We will begin to look out for the return of the "Dayspring" in the beginning of April. We had some letters, papers and Record's from home, last week, which were about seven months on the way; but they were welcome, and more than welcome. We were rejoiced to hear of times of revival being vouchsafed to some of our congregations in P. E. Island and other parts of the Church. May the Spirit be poured out more and more upon all the sections of our Church. Glad also to hear of the progress of Presbyterian Union in the Dominion. I am correcting Dr. Geddie's translation of the Psalms just now. It is a good exercise for me in the language.

JAMES D. MURRAY.

Letter from Rev. J. D. Murray.

ANEITYUM, April 24th, 1875.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—I take the opportunity this morning of sending away a note to you by a trading vessel which is about to sail hence for the Fijis. The "Dayspring" came to anchor in the harbour here yesterday, after a long and tedious passage of 19 days from Sydney, and brought us our goods and mails. I am sorry to say that no letter from you has come to hand. Your duties, however, we know, are very numerous and onerous. We will excuse you, therefore, this time, and bear our disappointment with resignation.

We continue, I am thankful to say, to enjoy good health here, and are feeling

more and more encouraged by the aspect of the work. Last rainy season was not so wet, but quite as hot, as the preceding. Four hurricanes have passed over us since November; but they were not very severe.

Our island has recently been visited by an extraordinary succession of earthquakes, which have been destructive more or less of life and property. During the last three weeks, either slight tremors, or shakings of considerable violence have been of almost daily occurrence. The first shock of the series, which was felt on the 28th ult., about midnight, was the most severe, and did almost all the mischief. There has not been anything like it here, within the memory of the living. The sea, by the influence of the earth-wave, first receded, leaving our harbour seemingly half emptied of its usual quantity of water; and then, in about 10 or 15 minutes afterwards, came a great wave, rolling most impetuously in upon the shore, about 20 feet beyond the ordinary reach of high water. Our premises being somewhat elevated, escaped uninjured by the sea; but the Church has got a very severe shaking. It can be repaired, however. The islet of Imgeric, in this harbour, on which there was a washing establishment and a white family residing, was quite overwhelmed, and almost all the buildings on it severely damaged. One of the whites, an old man, was nearly drowned. The sea came up from both sides of the island at the same time. Estimated depth of water on the lower part of the land 6 feet. Great quantities of sea spoil were carried up and scattered over the island. Wherever there were houses or plantations on low lands along the shore, damages have been sustained. The mission station of the Rev. Mr. Inglis has been seriously damaged. Near this place a child was washed away by the sea, and drowned. Men and women also were carried off, but all either swam ashore, or were rescued by others. Many, however, have been ill, in consequence of the exposure. The natives, who are not usually very easily frightened, were becoming unmistakably terrified, as indeed we all were. I know no phenomenon in nature that makes one feel his own helplessness and nothingness more than the terrible one of earthquakes, nothing so fitted to impress the mind with a sense of the might and majesty of Him who "looketh on the earth, and it trembleth, and toucheth the hills and they smoke." After each shock the eruptions of the Tanna volcano were heard by us here much more distinctly than usual.

I have got down by the "Dayspring" our church bell, which was recast at Sydney, at a cost of over £11 stg. This is charged meanwhile to me; but Dr. Steel, who knows very well my inability to meet