

Foreign Missions.

CIRCULATION OF SCRIPTURES AT ANEITEUM.

The following Letter from the Rev. J. Inglis to the B. & For. Bible Society, published in the last No. of the Bible Society Reporter, contains some interesting notices of Bible circulation in that quarter..

ANEITEUM, New Hebrides,
Nov. 24, 1853.

I am instructed to convey the thanks of the Missionaries to the Committee of the Bible Society for their liberal grant of Bibles and printing paper.

I enclose 12 copies of the Gospel of Mark, printed in the Papuan language; from the want of proper materials, and the pressing urgency of other Missionary duties, we availed ourselves of a favorable opportunity to have it printed in Sydney. On this island we have about 1500 natives attending our schools. This is the first entire book of Scripture printed in this language; but other portions of it are in a state of preparation, and the printing of them will be proceeded with as fast as possible.

You will doubtless rejoice to learn that the Bible is being opened to another tribe of the great human family; that another radically distinct language is being added to the many in which the word of God is now printed; that the ignorant and degraded inhabitants of this island, one of the most remote and unknown of the isles of the Gentiles, are now daily reading in their own tongue, wherein they were born, the wonderful works of God. The Lord has been favoring this mission very graciously during the past year.

This island has for the most part been without foreign residents during the last twelve months. The Australian gold fields have attracted the most of the floating population from these seas for a year or two; but the tide is again lightly turning. Some favorable opportunities have occurred of disposing of Bibles in sandal-wood vessels, where they were much needed, and where they were gratefully received.

Some time ago an English vessel called here, the captain of which had his wife

on board, a French lady, whom he had recently married at the Mauritius. The Missionary stationed at the harbour, gave up a parcel of tracts for the men in the vessel, and enclosed a French Bible. The captain accepted them, cheerfully, and promised to distribute them. A few days after, when the vessel was about to sail, he called upon the Missionary, and informed him how delighted his wife was with the French Bible. She had been brought up a Romanist, and had never seen, or at least never read a Bible before. She had been reading it constantly from the time it was brought on board.

A short time since, a vessel from California called at this island for a few days. Among the passengers was an Italian count, who had taken an active part in the late struggle in Italy, and on the return of the Pope, had been obliged to leave his native land. He has been travelling through different parts of the world, and waiting for a favorable opportunity to return home. He spoke English imperfectly. On learning that he had no copy of the Scriptures, Mr Geddie presented him with a French testament, which he politely accepted. He had read the Pentateuch, but had never read the New Testament. 'This,' said he, 'is a forbidden book in my country, but I shall read it here without asking the Pope's leave.' If the Holy Spirit accompany the reading of that copy of His word with saving power, as we earnestly pray He may, this nobleman, should he return to Italy, will return a different and a vastly better reformer than when he left his oppressed native country.

CRUISE OF "H. M. S. "TORCH," IN THE SOUTH SEAS.

We have been favored with an account, from the Sydney Shipping Gazette, of the cruise of this steamer now employed in surveying among the islands of the southern Pacific. The whole narrative is interesting, but only a smaller portion of it has any bearing upon the missionary operations going on in that quarter. We submit one or two extracts.

She bore up for Aneiteum, New Hebrides, arriving there on the 13th. Here the shores were found lined with wood cut according to agreement by these