

got up. Mr. Morton brought them from Halifax.

The members of your mission families are well.

Yours very truly,

K. J. GRANT.

To the Rev. P. G. McGregor, Sec'y.

NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

Letter from Rev. J. D. Murray.

ANEITYUM, Jan. 2, 1875.

Rev. P. G. McGregor, Sec. B. F. M.:

MY DEAR SIR,—An unusual press of work prevented me from sending away any communication to you by the *Dayspring* in Nov. last. I write you a few lines now, however, in the expectation of their going by a vessel which we have just learned is to leave this port for Noumea the day after to-morrow.

We are all well here; but Mr. Inglis, I regret to say, has been prostrated for some weeks past by influenza and fever and ague. The fever poison has clung to his system very tenaciously. We have learned, however, that he is getting better slowly, and we hope soon to hear of his perfect recovery. There is not much sickness among the natives at present; but the rate of mortality among them during the past year has been very high.

A VOYAGE.

I returned from my second voyage round the mission-field in October, after an absence from Aneityum of nearly six weeks. The sum of what I saw and learned with reference to the state of the mission, you will find in the observations embodied in my annual report of the vessel, a copy of which has been forwarded to you, I trust, by Mr. Cosh, or Dr. Steel.

REPORT.

We found the missionaries all well, and devoting themselves with vigor to their apostolic work. The progress and prospects of evangelistic operations at the various stations appear to me to be, for the most part, of an encouraging character. Of course every missionary has many difficulties to contend with; and, at times, the work in some, or all of its branches, may seem to be not only not progressing, but even to be going back. Yet, as a whole, it is evidently advancing in the direction which betokens ultimate success. The annihilation of heathen superstition may not be effected here as readily as we and our friends could wish, or as we may have expected, but it shall be effected some day; and it is ours to maintain the siege against the powers of darkness till every one of these isles wait for Messiah's

law. "Thou hast conquered, O Galilee!" was the cry which went up from a defeated heathen of old; and it is the cry which will yet be extorted from the enemy here. The weapons of our warfare are mighty through God, and are sure to win a complete victory in due season. Let us have—along with the effectual fervent prayers of the Church—an adequate staff of evangelists of truly apostolic mould, and you will not be disappointed in your hopes of hearing that the strongholds of Satan in those regions have one after another been demolished, and that all those Ethiopians have been made willing to stretch out their hands unto God.

PROGRESS.

Nothing extraordinary has taken place in the spiritual department of the work; yet some of the brethren feel certain that the great revival movement of the past year has affected them and the people among whom they are laboring for good; and feel certain that, in their happy experience, God has been answering the prayers offered up in their behalf by the Christian Church in Britain and in the Colonies. The light of divine truth seems to be winning its way into a few of the dark hearts of the heathen, while one here and there among the class who have been denominated Christians exhibits signs, if we mistake not, of the commencement or revival of spiritual life. We would vain hope that these are tokens of still greater blessings to come—that they may be the drops of mercy from on high which presage "the plentiful rain" that turns the parched ground into a pool, and the thirsty land into springs of water.

WORK AT HOME.

On Aneityum the missionary work continues to be attended with encouraging indications of sound and real progress. A number of the natives seem to have become unusually interested in the great realities of the Gospel. This, I think, is more particularly the case with those under the care of Mr. Inglis. We are very happy in our work here, and hopeful of success in it in due season. It must be said, however, that we are frequently confronted by difficulties which are due to the essentially heathen proclivities of many of the people. The degree to which the life and manners of the Aneityumese as a body have been ameliorated is unquestionably considerable. A very marked difference is observable between their every-day deportment and that of their more barbarous neighbours on the islands adjacent. The former, too, it must be admitted, are characterized by some interesting qualities. But perhaps no lower type of humanity anywhere exists than they; and their Christianity, as might