

New Hebrides.

Letter from Mrs. McKenzie.

The children who like to hear about the little folks in Mission schools in the New Hebrides, will be glad to read the letter given below from Mrs. J. W. McKenzie, one of our missionaries there.

ERAKOR, EFATE, JUNE 29th, '85.

My Dear Miss McCulloch:—

I now write to acknowledge receipt of box so kindly forwarded by the Juvenile Society in Truro. The articles were all perfectly good, even the candy was quite hard. There was a box came to us from Stellarton by Mr. Robertson containing a number of ready made garments. Some of these, added to three sent from Truro, made sufficient for the whole school. Each girl received a dress, and each boy a shirt or suit.

Both Mr. McK. and I thought it would be better to give the little ones their entertainment now than to keep the articles until next Christmas. So last Thursday we had the pleasure of seeing the little ones spend a happy day. As it was not Christmas we dispensed with the goose. I suppose you are aware that Christmas goose here is a hog.

On Wednesday, with the help of some of the teachers, we arranged and ticketed all the articles. We wished to follow out the original idea, viz.: giving each child two articles. So, after garments were laid aside for all, we prepared a plate and spoon or pannikin for each. Then prizes were to be given; these consisted of tin basins, print, etc.

On Thursday morning the children met to make their food. The boys prepared the wood and scraped the cocoanuts, the girls pared and scraped the yams. As soon as the food was placed in the ovens they assembled on the grass near our house and partook freely of a large boiler of rice which had been cooked by one of the young men. They then went to the point to have some fun. When the tree was decorated and we were ready for them they were arranged in seven classes and marched up. At the head of each was a

teacher carrying a flagstaff. The flags were colored handkerchiefs sewed together. Mr. McK. addressed them at some length, after which we had some singing and prayer.

The presents were first distributed, then the prizes explained and handed to the successful parties, lastly came the candy. A little bag was handed to each child. The happy looks on their faces told that they were greatly pleased.

A number of them appeared in their new clothes on Sabbath. I saw smiles among the boys, owing, I fancied, to their new suits, it is such an unusual thing for the boys to wear trousers. Hitherto we have been thankful to provide each with a shirt.

I have a sewing class every week with the little girls; some of them are mere tots, so small. I insist on them doing their work slowly and carefully and when they do so it is wonderfully neat. Some of the older ones worked button-holes in their dresses and did them very nicely.

So far it has been a kind of Dorcas Society. We have made garments for the orphan children. I of course supply the material. The teachers wives assisted with the cutting, but now I am teaching the older girls to do it. Several of them are between eleven and twelve years of age, none older.

I should tell you that we have a number of adults attending the children's school. They are heathen who came from an inland village in February. There are about twenty of them. We felt they would make more progress in the children's school than elsewhere. A number of heathen have come in from other parts of our field and settled in other villages. So far each person has been supplied with a garment by us or some of the Christian natives. But now my dear young friends I must close. Thanking you again for your continued interest in the Lord's cause here, and trusting that you will meet with very great success in all your efforts to serve him, I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

AMANDA MCKENZIE.