

couple now coming (Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie) may stand the strain for many years.

There is more here than the climate to wear missionaries down. Twice this season Mr. Landels (the missionary on the neighboring Island of Malo) has come for me in the night to help him attend to gunshot wounds in natives. The first case was a woman shot through the wrist. She is now well. Last week he had a more serious case, a young man had two rifle bullets through his left arm, both at the elbow, one of which smashed the bone. Another man at the same time had a bullet through his face.

The white men continue to supply the natives with rifles and ammunition, while the missionaries have to be at the expense and worry of attending to the wounded.

Our people are coming into the fold one by one. We had the joy of having three more of our young people sit down with us at the Lord's table. The wonder is that, in so short a time, any should be found so changed. It is proof of the unflinching power of the Gospel to regenerate mankind. The minds of others are gradually opening to receive the truth, among whom there is a growing higher ideal of life. Many are very fickle—at one time friendly, and shortly afterwards bitterly opposed to Christianity. But there are instances of great encouragement.

I have just come from visiting one of our old chiefs at the village. Coming out of church this morning a young man told me that the chief, who has been ill for more than a year, wished to see me. I went over and found him really wishing to see me and hear about the way of salvation. He, to whom I had spoken so often, and from whom I had got so little ground for hope, had apparently at last been constrained to yield so far at least as to wish to hear more about life eternal and the way whereby it can be obtained. With joyful heart I pointed out the way to him. When I prayed he repeated my words with energy. This may seem a small thing, but it is worth coming all the way to the New Hebrides for, even to see one poor sinner crying to God for mercy.

For some days past I had been feeling depressed and sad at the hardness of heart manifested all around us, and to-day God has lifted us up, and filled our mouths with praise. We shall yet see greater cause to praise Him, for doubtless His spirit is working. Prayers ascending to heaven from His own people must bring down the blessings even here.

Remarking on the work carried on in the New Hebrides the Board says: At present the Australian New Hebrides Company run a steamer about every month from Melbourne and Sydney direct to Fila Harbor, Estate. A small steamer, working among the islands, meets her at Fila and relieves her of her cargo for the mission, and supplies her with a return cargo to Australia. These vessels at the same time afford facilities for the missionaries to go, at regular times, from place to place, and accommodate the demands of a rapidly developing trade. Bananas in large quantities, and other fruits in smaller amounts, are regularly shipped from the islands to Australia. The natives are thus stimulated to cultivate the soil, and become a self-respecting and self-sustaining community. We may reasonably hope that the mission, under such influences, will grow into a native church, supporting the Gospel among themselves, in the course of time. Our share of contributions to the subsidy given by the churches supporting the mission, to the Australian New Hebrides Company, for the services they thus render the mission, is £250 sterling. We ask the children of our Sabbath schools to contribute this amount annually.

The New Hebrides Mission Synod met in April, 1891, at Aneityum. Our three missionaries were present, with eleven others. This is a most important annual gathering of the brethren from many different Presbyterian churches working in the group. They are enabled in these conferences to do much, by concerted action, for the furtherance of the cause of Christ within their sphere of labor. Among other important measures decided on at this meeting, was the establishment of an institution for the training of native teachers and pastors—in short, a college.

It was decided to locate it on Tangoa, and to appoint the Rev. Joseph Annand, A.M., one of our missionaries (whom the Presbyterian College, Halifax, lately recognized as worthy of the title of Doctor of Divinity), as its principal. The institution is to be entirely under his management, but he is to report annually to the Mission Synod, and receive instructions from the Synod. He will employ such assistants as are necessary, and dismiss them if not efficient. The instruction is to be given in English, and the course of study, in the meantime, is to extend over four years, the students, of course, being able to pass an entrance examination before being received. The committee cordially approve of this undertaking. They believe that by means of it, not only will a better class of teachers be provided, but that it will tend to the diffusion of the English language, and thus facilitate missionary work, and open up the way for immigration, commerce, a more settled form of government and the general prosperity and progress of this beautiful group of islands.

As directed by last Assembly, the committee addressed a communication to all the churches and their Foreign Mission

Committees, in Australasia, engaged in the evangelization of these islands, on the question of transferring to them our mission in the group. Replies have already been received from most of them, and the remainder will, no doubt, be heard from before the meeting of the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, to whom, in the first instance, according to the directions of last Assembly, they will be submitted. The action of said Synod, and the whole correspondence, it is hoped, can be placed before the next Assembly for a final deliverance.

#### TRINIDAD.

The work here has been successfully prosecuted, amidst trying circumstances. Yellow fever broke out on the island last summer, and proved fatal in many cases. Our missionaries escaped, but suffered much from common malarial fever, and, thus weakened, had to contend with the many trials incident to the prevalence of a serious epidemic among those under their care. The staff, which was last year reported broken by the resignations of Rev. F. J. Coffin and Miss A. Archibald, was renewed by the appointment of Rev. S. A. Fraser, who with his wife went out in November, and Miss Cecilia Sinclair who went in December to take the school at Princetown, vacated by Miss Archibald. All these additions have already given proof of their thorough fitness for the positions to which they have been called.

Dr. Morton returned to his work from his furlough in Britain in November, much refreshed and invigorated. Mrs. and Miss Morton remained in Britain during the winter, greatly to the benefit of the health of the former. After a summer spent in their native province they hope to rejoin Dr. Morton next November.

Dr. Grant visited Jamaica in January, where two of the young men trained in the Trinidad College are laboring, under the direction and with the support of the Presbyterian Church of Jamaica, among the East Indians on that island. Dr. Grant's visit was much appreciated by the Synod, which was then in session, and his address to that body, as well as his visit to the fields where his former students are laboring, gave a strong impetus to the work in Jamaica.

From Jamaica he came, with the concurrence of the committee to Nova Scotia, for a brief rest. He returned to his work greatly strengthened, and accompanied by Mrs. Grant and their two daughters, who had been for twenty months in Nova Scotia, near the end of April.

The detailed reports from Tarapoma, San Fernando, Princetown, Conra and St. Lucia are satisfactory, considering the difficulties with respect to ill-health which the missionaries have had to contend with.

The following statement regarding the finances of the New Hebrides and Trinidad is appended to the report. It was hoped that, during the jubilee year, the debt of \$3,481.50 would be removed. This hope was not fully realized. The total receipts for the year were \$27,455.08, and the total expenditure was \$24,872.75, leaving \$2,582.33 for the reduction of the debt, which is, therefore, still \$869.20. We trust our people will wipe this amount from the debit side of our account and also put to its credit enough for the wants of the coming year.

#### INDIAN MISSIONS.

The section of the report touching the Indian Missions in Manitoba and the North-West Territories is introduced thus. —When one compares each year with the year immediately preceding it, there seems to be but little progress, and now and then there appear to be years when there is no progress at all to report—only at best a new mission opened, or a schoolhouse built, or half a dozen or a dozen additions to the communion roll at this centre or that. It is only when we take a more extended review and compare our position with what it was five years ago, or ten years ago, that we see how far we are now in advance of what our position was then. Ten years ago we had four ordained missionaries in the field, now we have seven, besides several others, like Mr. W. J. Wright, Mr. Alex. Skene, Mr. N. Gilmour, Mr. Peter Hunter, and Mr. M. Swartout, who preach, and in many respects do an ordained minister's work. Ten years ago we had three day schools, and these were all the schools we had. Now, in addition to three day schools, we have eight industrial and boarding-schools, in which latter class it can easily be seen that the moral and religious training are greatly superior, because the missionary has control of the child all the time, and does not send him back every afternoon to the uncivilized and often filthy and pagan surroundings of the reserve. The superiority of boarding-schools to day-schools in educational and industrial features is seen in the fact that the Government has declined to establish any more day schools. Ten years ago our revenue was a little over \$1,000, now, thanks in a great measure to the Women's Foreign Mission Society, it is three times that amount. Ten years ago there was not a band which, to save off starvation, did not receive two or three times as much food from the Government as it does now, the Indians, by the joint efforts of missionaries and Government agents, have learnt something of self-respect and manly independence. They have learned by hard experience that "if any man will not