

THE TIMES, Monday, August 9, 1886

## THE NEW HEBRIDES

PARIS, AUG. 8.

According to a correspondence addresses from Port Havannah on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June to the *Independent*, of New Caledinia, the occupation of Port Vila and Port Havannah passed off quietly. The English gunboat, the *Undine*, was at the latter place on the arrival of the dispatch boat *Dives*, of the French navy, under the command of Lieutenant Legrand. The *Undine* put to sea and did not return to the anchorage until the French marines had disembarked. The correspondent says that Lieutenant Legrand acted with a decision and ability which do him infinite honour. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of June the marines were landed and drawn up, the French flag was hoisted, a cannon was fired, and an official notice read by Lieutenant Legrand, stating that by orders of the Governor of New Caledonia he had disembarked the troops at Port Havannah, in the Sandwich Islands, to establish a French military post there, and that at half-past 6 o'clock on the morning of that day the French flag had been hoisted over the establishment destined for the provisional cantonment of the troops which had been landed. On the same day an intimation was sent to the residents of all nationalities established in the New Hebrides that a French military post had been established at Port Havannah. All the colonists are said to have signed with enthusiasm the official report of what had been done. The only exception was that of the Rev. M. Mackenzie, who is settled at the lagoon of Aracore, near Port Vila. He stated that he could not take the responsibility of signing the paper, but that if France took possession of the island he should use every effort to secure the respect of the natives for the French proprietors and the French flag. As regards the Canaquas, they received the news with real demonstrations of joy. On the following day a similar ceremony was performed at Port Sandwich in the island of Malicolo. The troops were installed in the building belonging to the Company of the New Hebrides, the detachment from the *Dives* in the house of the director, over which the flag floated, and that from the *Magellan* in a shed near the beach. Every precaution was taken by Captain Polliard, of the Marines, with the aid of the medical men belonging to the detachment, to enforce proper sanitary rules. It was mor difficult to effect a settlement at Malicolo. The ground had to be cleared of brushwood to erect barracks, but the Canaquas came forward very willingly to give their help. At first they were.....

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