

happy to see me. I got some yams and taro, and the high chief and some of his wives brought them home for me. Still there was a difficulty. The party who had taken the job of thatching the house refused to come and work, alleging that the man from whom I had purchased the thatch refused to give any more because it was all destroyed by the hurricane. This was really only a shift in order to get more pay. I engaged with another man for thatch, and promised when the work was finished to pay him well for it, but soon the thatching was stopped again. I went to town about it, and found that the first man was willing enough to give the thatch providing that I would give him what I had promised to the other man. He then brought some, for they only bring a little at a time. In the course of a week or two they got the other side nearly finished, and then we had another long lull. Dysentery broke out among the natives, and many of them were prostrated with it. Not a few died, and others, as it passes from village to village, were dying. On the 17th Feb., my dear little bairn was prostrated with it. She had been very ill and had a very narrow escape. I attended her night and day with all the care and vigilance possible, and thus by God's blessing and mercy she recovered. On the 6th of March, I was attacked with it. We were out of food for some days, and I went to a village about three miles distant from our residence. I had to walk for about two miles along the shore, under the scorching heat of the sun, and wade a river which reached up to my arm-pits, and remain wet until my clothes dried of their own accord. I had had diarrhoea for a few days previous, but thought it would not come to anything. When I came to the village I found that none of the natives would bring me taro, it being one of their feast days. I had no alternative but to take a load on my back and retrace my steps the best way I could. On coming home I was quite exhausted, and the dysentery came on. For six days the blood continued flowing with very little intermission, and still I had to attend to the cow, and prepare my own food, when I could partake of any. The Mare woman could cook nothing except roast a yam or taro. I

became reduced to the lowest extremity. There was not a native who would come near us except one chief, who was always kind and mindful of us. He once brought cooked food, but I could not eat it; he also brought fish several times, which I relished very much; he had also been very mindful of our little bairn when she was ill. A day or two before I got hurt, he went to one of the neighbouring islands to exchange some pigs, and was prevented from getting back by the wind for two weeks. I was struggling between life and death, yea I was in the very jaws of death. My appearance was enough to frighten any person. My flesh, which was never a burden, was now all gone, and my bones appeared white coming through my skin, and to add to my misery, blains and blood boils broke out on my back, hips, arms and legs, which continued discharging for upwards of a full month. I could not lie down, sit, nor stand, and still I had to do some manual labour every day. I got another hurt while in this state from falling on a stump, which nearly broke some of my ribs. God only knows how I ever became convalescent. The want of proper food was enough of itself to kill any person. I had no bread, the yeast and all other things got spoiled during the storms; add to this the want of proper rest, and the being continually tormented by the Mare woman, and you will not wonder that even now, after 40 days, I feel weak and very miserable. When I move or walk about, my knees and joints make a creaking noise, and it is evident from the state of my internal parts that all the ravages committed are yet far from being repaired. Up to the aforesaid time I never had a proper sleep, nor a pleasant night's rest, and never felt refreshed. It was always a short nap of a few minutes, awakened with a start; but still in my wakefulness I had sufficient time to meditate on God's promises.

"Upon the name of God the Lord
Then did I call and say,
Deliver Thou my soul, O God,
I do Thee humbly pray."

"O spare me that I may recover strength, before I go hence and be no more."

A couple of weeks before I had been taken ill, I was working very hard. I