

the place who told them the chief wished a teacher until the Portinia Bay people came and "made his heart bad." This is the first decided opposition brought against our work since our settlement. That people (Portinia Bay) will neither enter the kingdom of God themselves, nor let others who would enter in. But we know who is on our side, and truth will sooner or later prevail over error. We have at this station morning school four days in each week, also Wednesday prayer-meeting. On Sabbath we have a service from 9 to 10, and from 10.15 to 11.15, A. M., and Sabbath-school from 3 to 4, P. M. After Sabbath-school I have a Bible-class with three young women and three young men who live on the premises. I call it *Bible-class*, for want of a more appropriate term. Mrs. R. has a class of little girls on Sabbath, and during the week she teaches them, besides reading and a little writing, sewing. I have my class of six during the week, and also lately a class of 5 little boys. Mrs. R. had, for a length of time, a large class of women sewing, but had to give it up for want of material.

The most encouraging feature of our work by far on this island, is the willingness of those who worship to take books and learn to read. Often when discouraged by the low state of Christianity of many of those who profess it, and the amount of crime indulged in by a certain class living in Dillon's Bay and neighborhood, we are not a little cheered when we see a group of men or women assisting each other in reading God's word—many learning with lamp-light in their huts to read the blessed Word of Life. I preach less and teach more than I did, though I preach once or twice every Sabbath, and sometimes address small gatherings at other districts near us. With the natives you must take up one idea, and hammer it into their heads over and over and over ever so many times before you need think of imparting a second idea. In all your teaching you require to be absolute with the natives of these islands. There are three small "lands" not very distant from Dillon's Bay, where two of the teachers hold service on Sabbath, and, when I appoint them to conduct service here, I go to those other districts myself.

In manual labour we have been kept pretty busy at times, not from choice, but from necessity. We have always had a few natives willing to lend a helping hand, while others, men and women, whom we attend when in sickness and instruct daily, never do a hand's turn for us. Since our settlement we have had two Aneityum men constantly with us, and, with their assistance, most of my work has been done. As

I think I mentioned in a previous letter, I have built a new mission-house nearer the sea, and in a much more healthy place than the site of the old one. The new house is 50x16 feet, and 9½ feet post, with a verandah 6 feet wide all round. We have raised the new house well from the ground by a stone and lime foundation, which gave us some hard days' work, but has made our house quite cool and dry, and as healthy as could be in this low valley. We have both enjoyed excellent health since we moved out of the old building. We have also built a small lime cook-house with chimney, and two small lime buildings, one for our Eromangan lads, and one for our two Aneityumese. In native made buildings we have been more extravagant, as we have built three houses for our boat, and two for our cows, horse and goats, and three for the women and girls who have been living with us. The hurricane of '73 carried away our first boat-house, and the second was a poor affair, and soon broke down, but the present one is an excellent native building, and, unless carried away by the sea and hurricanes, will last a long time. We have now commenced two small buildings running back from our present house, to be divided into spare bedroom, store-room, dining room and pantry. I am making them out of native wood, and, instead of thatch, the roof will be covered with old zinc taken off the old mission house. As we built on a bed of stone, we have had a great amount of work in cleaning up our premises, and it is still very rough, but we hope to improve it yet. Out of the stones we removed off the premises I got a solid stone wall or fence built, enclosing our entire premises. I employed six Aneityum young men to build the stone wall, and they made an excellent job of it, and were very little over three months at it. The reed fences do not stand any time, and are very frail affairs, though very pretty whilst they last. Unless the sea or an earthquake throws it down, the stone fence will stand for many a year to come. However, I would not have gone to the labor of making a stone fence had the stone not been on the spot.

We can get plenty of yams to buy from the heathen, if we keep a good supply of weed—they are all great tobacco-eaters here, both old men and children, young men and maidens. They seem to be quite lost if they have no tobacco—perfect slaves to it. There are just seven men on Eromanga who do not use tobacco, and they are all teachers. But though a miserable habit to low races who become slaves to it, and so disgusting to see women and children use it, still, if tobacco and its use were the