

dered at, that ignorance and darkness prevail. Living in an isolated locality a Minister's face was rarely seen. Being seven miles distant from any place of worship, which they could only reach in boats, they were not often privileged to listen to a sermon or to hear the preacher's voice. There has never been a school within a reasonable distance, and hence not a child in any family can read. The Bible is found in every house, but to nearly all it must be a sealed book. Brighter days, however, have now dawned upon this isolated region. The employees at the Mill, accustomed to attend the House of God, naturally longed to enjoy the same privilege in their present situation. An application was at once made by one of the leading Presbyterians for a monthly service and the use of a room tendered for this purpose. Mr. Thomas Murray, Student, who is employed as a Catechist in the Sheet Harbor Congregation, at once commenced to labour among them, and he has continued to do so all summer with much acceptance. Quite a number of devout worshippers assemble on a Sabbath afternoon and listen to the message of Salvation as it falls from the preacher's lips, and at the same time contribute of their substance toward payment of supply. Active steps are also now being taken to erect a School House, which is to be finished and occupied this autumn. The building of a Church is even being discussed, and the "powers that be" have done a good work this season in granting large Government aid in and around this part of the Eastern Shore toward opening up and improving roads. A monthly service is also given to this people by an Episcopal Clergyman, so that they now enjoy the privilege of hearing the gospel preached fortnightly.

The readers of the *Record* will thus see how usefully our Divinity Students are employed during the summer season, and that a part of our Home Mission Fund is wisely appropriated by the Board in cultivating the waste places of our Provinces. When spiritual destitution abounds within our borders, surely we should rejoice that

as a Church we are enabled to send the gospel to those perishing for lack of knowledge. Cheerfully should we contribute of our substance to carry on the work, ever mindful of those at our own doors who have not been so highly favoured as others. And as the seed is being sown, let us remember in our prayers the sowers, never forgetting that God giveth the increase both in the Home and Foreign field.

---

## THE MISSIONARY VESSEL.

I.

BY THE REV. DR. STEEL.

The Paragon mission vessel left Sydney on the 4th April with the Rev. Messrs. Copeland, Goodwill, and Paton, Mrs. Goodwill and two children, Mrs. Paton and two children, and myself. After a favourable passage of eleven days the vessel reached Anelcauhat Harbour, Aneityum. As it was sunset, the harbour was not entered till sunrise of the 16th. Mr. and Mrs. Murray and child were found in good health. The Sabbath was spent at this station. The Rev. Joseph Copeland, who knows the language of the island, preached at nine o'clock to the native congregation. The attendance was not large, being not over fifty men and thirty women, who squatted on the matted floor on opposite sides of each other. All except three of the men wore shirts, and one of the three had a vest instead. They all had a wrapper of calico. The women were dressed in a petticoat of leaves hanging below the knees, with short gowns and very comical looking hats or bonnets. The singing was in a very low tone, and seemed to lack force. All had hymn-books, testaments, and portions of the books of Moses; and all seemed to be able to read. This marked the progress of Christianity. The church was another evidence. It is a strong and large lime building. The diminished population, however, has made the church too large. An English service was held at eleven, when I preached. There were twelve present from the ship and the manse.

The vessel left for Aname, the station of Mr. Inglis, on the other side of the island, on the night of the 20th; and lay off next morning. The weather was rough, so that few of his stores could be landed. Passengers were landed for a few hours; but the weather made it three days, while the vessel continued off and on battling with wind and sea. Kwamera, the station of the Rev. W. Watt on the south of Tanna,