

for several hours, those on board, about thirty souls in all,—there being a number of native passengers in the vessel,—were in imminent peril. For the last twenty-five years—that is, since missionaries were settled on this island—the only other hurricane equal to this, or at all approaching to it, was that of the 14th and 15th of March, 1861, when Mr. Copeland had charge of this station, and Mrs. Inglis and I were home on a visit. Mr. Copeland published a full and carefully prepared account of that hurricane, a copy of which is lying before me; I am thus enabled to compare the two. The hurricane of 1861 was of longer duration than this one. On that occasion, the sea rose higher on this side of the island than during this hurricane. At that time it rose nine feet above high water mark, at this time it only rose seven. The destruction of food and houses was greater on that occasion than on this, owing to the sea rising so much, and inundating all the low lands; two vessels went ashore in that hurricane, and one went to pieces. But both the natives and white men residing then on the island, say that the wind was considerably stronger on this occasion. During this hurricane the aneroid barometer fell twenty points, or one-fifth of an inch lower than in 1861. On that occasion it fell 1.40, or one inch and two-fifths of an inch. At this time it fell 1.60, or one inch and three-fifths of an inch. This is more than an inch lower than I have ever known it to fall. The strength of the hurricane came from the N.N.E.; when the hurricane was approaching its height, the wind veered round to the N., then to the N.W., and finally, when it began to abate, to the W. It was but of short duration—not more than three or four hours; indeed, it was during one short hour that almost all the damage was done. It was at the height about 5 in the morning. The glass then began to rise, and rose as rapidly as it had fallen.

DAYSPRING AT ANCHOR.

“The *Dayspring* had come to anchor in Aneityum harbour at noon on Friday, the 3rd inst., and all arrangements were made for her sailing on the Tuesday morning following. She had called at every mission station for the last time this season, except *Fortuna*, the wind not permitting her to make that island on her way south. Captain Jenkins wished to see me on business of importance connected with the vessel, and also to obtain here some supplies of native food for the voyage. Mrs. Goodwill of Santo, who was on her way to Sydney for medical advice, wished also to come round to see if she could obtain a native woman to go with her, as nurse for her baby. To lose no time, Captain Jenkins came off that afternoon in the ship's

boat, bringing with him Mrs. Jenkins and Mrs. Goodwill and her child, expecting to reach this station that night, and return to the ship on the following day. But the wind was much stronger, and the sea much rougher, on this side of the island, than he expected, and they were obliged to put in at a whaling station about half way, and remain there for the night. Next morning the captain borrowed a whale boat as being more easily pulled than the ship's boat, which he left till he should return. After a hard pull, they reached this place about mid-day. Business matters were arranged to the satisfaction of all parties, and they expected (D.V.) to return on Monday morning—the wind being highly favourable for going back to the ship—and that the vessel would sail on Tuesday, call at *Fortuna* on Wednesday morning, and thence take her departure for Sydney on Wednesday afternoon. But the Lord had willed it otherwise.

THE HURRICANE.

“On Sabbath the weather was squally, and the glass fell a little; but there was nothing to excite alarm. It was just such weather as we frequently have at that season of the year; moreover, no hurricane had ever been seen by anyone connected with the mission till nearly a month after that date. The first mate, Mr M'Arthur, however, had taken every precaution on Sabbath; both anchors were down, every inch of chain was paid out, the topmasts and yards were sent down, and everything was done to secure a firm hold and lessen the strain upon the ship. The wind, too, was blowing from the land and out of the harbour. The harbour is open to the S.W., and it is when the wind blows from that point, and brings in a heavy sea, that danger to vessels arises. I have known six vessels driven ashore in this way here, but I have not known of anyone being injured while the wind blew from the land. About 4 o'clock on Monday morning, however, the wind blew with such irresistible violence that both anchors were started, and the vessel, dragging her chains and anchors, ran out of the harbour, as if she had been a mail steamer going at full speed. She was all but clear of the harbour, and out to the open sea, where she would have been safe, when the wind suddenly veering or a cross sea coming up, or both, she was struck with such force on the broadside as, notwithstanding the breadth of her beam, all but capsized her; a tremendous sea at the same time bearing her along, pitched her right up on the edge of the reef. Here she was exposed to the full force of the breakers; and had she remained in that situation, the possibility is that she would soon have gone to pieces, and every one on board have perished. But a second tre-