

ly care, trusting that He would watch over us and keep us safely in our separation, and bring back those who were leaving, greatly improved and fitted for the mission work on this trying island. Late on Saturday evening, 14th Dec., the *Duyspring* left, having remained but a short time, only coming to anchor late on the previous evening. With a heavy heart I took my dear little pet, and endeavoured, in the dark, to find out our way to our lonely, lonely house; but, alas! on Dec. 20th she took very ill, and continued in an almost hopeless state for about a week before she began to amend. Oh! I would now give anything if Mrs. G. was only here again. The thought of losing my little darling and only company in this solitary state was too much for my nerves. I could hardly get her to take medicine, but I succeeded in administering some, and that proved, with God's blessing, the turning point in her recovery. Of the two Mare women, one was at the point of death, and did not wish to leave by the *Duyspring*, giving as a reason that she wanted her body to be buried beside her husband's. We had a great deal of trouble with her, giving her food and medicine, lifting her up, carrying her out and in, and trying to keep her clean. She was the very essence of pollution, and had no more shame than any brute beast. As soon as she got a little strength and was able to go about, she ran off with a chief with whom she had tried to make herself comfortable once before, while her husband was living. I sent for her frequently, but she would not return. While I was very low with dysentery, she either died, or the natives, having got tired of her, and seeing that there was no hope of her recovery, bundled her up and cast her into the sea. The chief said that there was such a stench about her that he could not bear her any longer in his house. I felt very sorry for her miserable end, but could not help it. The other one with her little girl remained with us, and, although far from being useful, or easy to put up with, still she was a little help. On the 1st of January, a storm came on from the north, which for the four first days was severe only at 4 p. m. and a little before daylight, but on the sixth day it became almost a hurricane. Here we

were drenched with rain, and I had very hard work trying to keep some of the thatch together to afford some shelter from the torrents which were driven in with the violence of the wind. I had to work from daylight until dark on the first Sabbath of 1873. There was no help for it; necessity has no law, and I had to make the best of it. All this time none of the natives came near us. On the 8th January I engaged fourteen natives to thatch my house. In the course of six days they got one side of the roof almost finished, but on the 16th of January a violent hurricane came from the south-east. The remainder of the old thatch was torn to pieces. The verandah was gone, and the foundation of the house was giving way, the cellar walls having fallen in. Every house on the station was razed to the ground except our dwelling house, and, by all appearances, it was not likely to weather the fury of the storm. The appearance of things was dreadful. The trees in all directions were torn up or broken to pieces, our little orange and magnolia trees met the same fate with coco-nut, breadfruit, bananas, &c. I took a peep outside at the wreck, and saw the fence about the pig-house mostly down; I began to repair it, but, unfortunately, a large swinging gate, which opened in that direction, came bounding on, struck me, and fractured one of my ribs. Groans were of no use; there was no time to be lost. I had to put new posts under the house, and props to support, as well as build up the wall again. I was really now in a bad state, without any help, and, worse still, the most of our supplies were destroyed. The natives' plantations were ruined, and a wild cry arose that there would be a famine. None of the natives came near us for two weeks, except one chief, who was always friendly. Early on the morning after the hurricane he came to see whether we were dead or alive; he was greatly surprised to see that our house was still standing, but every article in the house was drenched with water. I felt a little suspicious, as the natives were standing aloof, that they might be blaming me for the hurricane. Having an excellent excuse, as I was out of food, and wanted to buy some, I went to town and found that the chiefs and all the natives were quite