

part of this island. At no great distance from his habitation are boundaries he dare not pass: he lives in constant terror of his neighbours, is the slave of tobacco and kara, and is tormented by an insatiable desire to possess. When the temperature has been suddenly lowered, he is pinched with cold—his scanty fire affords him but little warmth, and the chill winds seek through his frail habitation. Prostrated by fever, there is no skillful physician or powerful remedy to aid the powers of nature.—His friends neglect him and leave him, to die or live. He seldom attains to old age, and if he does, he finds it possessed of no comforts; a new generation has arisen around him; he has not strength to dig, and no means of husbanding his sinking strength; he dies, is buried, and straightway forgotten.

I was glad to learn by letters received about a month ago, that your health was good, and that you had no interruptions during the session of Hall 1858. I hope that in the present session (1859) you feel equally strong, and that upon you all, teachers and taught, rest on the influence of the Great Teacher. I was glad, moreover, to learn that the congregation have called your son, and that he has accepted. May the relation between you, of colleague and successor long exist.

By the arrival of the "John Knox" yesterday, we have learned that Mr. Paton is suffering from the island fever, and that one of the Aneiteum teachers with him had died very suddenly. We seem, as a mission, to be passing at present through a course of trials. May they be sanctified. Mr. and Mrs. Inglis desire to be remembered to you all. If convenient, a few lines will be acceptable.—I am, yours, &c.,

JOSEPH COPELAND.

Professor Symington.

*Aneiteum, New Hebrides, Aug. 27, 1859.*

MY DEAR MRS. SYMINGTON,—I wrote you about seven months ago, which letter I hope you have received; but as an opportunity for sending letters has just occurred I embrace it to write you a few lines.

I am happy to say we are both well at present, but this has been a very unhealthy season. Mr. Inglis has had two different attacks of fever and ague this year, the first he ever had; but he

has been quite well again for some time past. We have had not only a great deal of sickness, but also a great number of deaths on this island this year. We have lost some of our most valuable natives. No less than four of the girls that formerly lived with me, and were married have died within the last four months. Nansilla, Samuel's wife, died about three weeks ago. She was a very valuable help to me in the work, and we meant to leave her and her husband with Mr. Copeland. She could do all kinds of house-work, and was very quiet. Until she took her illness, she was a great assistance to me in teaching. She took fever and ague, which hung on her for some months.—She was confined with her first child, which was born in the seventh month, and she never rallied, but died when the child was about a month old. It is a little girl, and its friends are nursing it with goat milk, which they get from us night and morning. Nansilla suffered great pain, but she said she was trusting in Christ, and was not afraid to die; but she felt for Samuel and the child. She was a candidate for baptism, and would have been admitted at next communion.

About a fortnight ago Jane, Sabatiao's wife, died. Her illness was very short. She was ill only a week, and it was not more than two or three days that her illness appeared dangerous.—She was never delirious, but she had excruciating pains in her head; and after one of these paroxysms, she asked them to turn her, which they did. She lay quiet, and they thought she was asleep, but when they looked at her face, she was quite dead.. She was the first native girl that came to stay with me. For some time before we came here, she had lived with Amosa, the Samoan teacher. She was one of our first female members. She has been married for about five years. She has left one little boy, about two and a half years of age. Her father was a high chief, and on that account, and still more on account of her own prudent and consistent character, she was held in great respect by all the native women. She was very conscientious. If I only shewed her that anything was her duty, she was sure to do it. The night before she died, she said to her husband, that great was the pain in her body, but she did not think of that; it was good