

shore. As soon as we landed we were surrounded by a good-natured crowd of men, women, and children, who seemed pleased to see us.

I have seldom seen a more lovely island than Mai. It is less romantic and imposing in appearance than some of the other islands, but the scenery is very pleasing. Three hills of nearly equal elevation rise gradually to the height of about 1,000 feet. The slopes on their sides are gentle, and these are covered in many places with the plantations of the natives. The land is fertile, and the natives brought us large quantities of yams for sale. There are two tribes on the island which speak different dialects. The people expressed a strong desire for a missionary or teachers.

ESPIRITU SANTO, OR MANIBU.

The vessel went first to the north end of the island, where Mr. Gordon had left in July last. The name of the place where he lived is Nagugu, and we found him well and in good spirits. The spot which he had chosen for his residence is elevated and healthy.

The natives were pleased to see the *Dayspring* once more. They are great traders, and during our stay they brought off many articles for sale. The missionary vessel is still valued more here for the temporal advantages of her visit than for the higher and nobler objects of her work. There is a time coming when these poor islanders shall know better than they now do that she is a messenger of mercy to their dark shores.

The day after our arrival was Sabbath. At an early hour the natives began to assemble for worship. The meeting was held in a large bamboo house. The congregation assembled numbered about 400 persons, but we were told that it was much larger than usual. The people sat quietly during the time of service, and their conduct was generally decorous. Many of the men had their spears or other weapons with them. The *Moul-seve*, or high chief, was present with two of his wives. His highness was enveloped in folds of red cotton, while his wives wore loose cotton dresses, and red worsted conical caps on their heads. These were the only persons clothed, and the rest of the audience presented a very primitive appearance. Mr. Gordon commenced public worship by giving out a native hymn, which was sung with animation, especially by the children, who have fine voices. This was followed by prayer and a short address in the native language. At Mr. Gordon's request I made a few remarks also, which were interpreted by him. The most interesting part of the audience was about 50 children, who sat before the rude pulpit. Mr. Gordon,

who had been teaching them since his arrival on the island, asked me to propose some questions to them. I received a ready answer to such simple questions as these—Who made all things? who were our first parents? who died to save sinners? what will become of the righteous after death? what will be the doom of the wicked? Let us hope that the seed sown in these young hearts may bring forth fruit in due season.

I was much pleased with the clean appearance of the natives. In this respect they are less repulsive than many of the neighbouring islanders. They evidently indulge in frequent ablutions. Their houses and premises are clean and tidy also. On our way to church on the Sabbath morning we passed many women sweeping their yards, and the dust was carefully gathered up and carried to a distance. These natives have a taste for ornamental plants also, uncommon to savages, and we saw near their houses beautiful varieties of the hibiscus, crotons, orchids, &c.

Mr. Gordon having joined us to return to Erromanga, we sailed for Cape Lisburne, at the south end of the island. The natives soon recognised the *Dayspring*, and came off to visit us. Lepas, the old chief of Vovo, was among the number of our visitors. He still desires a missionary or teachers, and promises to protect them. This place is clearly open for the Gospel, and should be occupied without delay.

Mr. and Mrs. Milne were desirous to visit a native village, and I accompanied them. We landed about three miles from the place where the ship lay at anchor, and walked about a mile from shore up a continued ascent. We saw nothing until we emerged from the bush on the brow of the hill on which the village stands. It must be elevated 700 or 800 feet above the level of the sea, and the view from it is extensive and lovely. The village was small, and less tidy than most that I have seen on the island. There were two albinos at this place,—the one a man and the other a woman, and their appearance was unnatural to us. Our interpreter seemed proud of them, and said they "were all same white man."

As we were leaving the shore to return to the ship, some natives who wished to see the vessel joined us. Their friends were alarmed, and called out to them to leave us, or they would be stolen and sold to the white men. Our interpreter apologised for them, and said they were people from the bush, and did not know "too much," and at the same time called out to them in an indignant tone, "Missionary no steal man." Our visitors were kindly treated on board, and sent safely on shore.

We heard that there were some natives ashore from Bartholomew Island, which we were desirous to visit, and which is not