

of the Aneityum mission. 'May it also mark an era in the spiritual life of many of the people. Very much of the new book is to them unintelligible without the teacher; however with the teaching of the Holy Spirit, sufficient light may shine into their hearts to guide them in at the strait gate and along the narrow way to the Heavenly City. Some of our people seek eagerly through the new volume of the prophets, which they received last year, but many of them much prefer to keep in the old beaten paths of the New Testament. Having tasted the new they say that the old is better, they love the word with which they are most familiar. May it be ever so that they shall love best the pure gospel truth.

It is pleasant for us to be able to report from this lonely isle of the sea that all is peaceful and moderately prosperous. Notwithstanding that we had a severe hurricane in the beginning of the year, yet there is abundance of food. There is plenty to eat and to drink, and the climate being tropical little clothing is required, hence our people are contented, and rejoicing in abundance of the necessities of life. We are having a particularly quiet season here, there is no whaling going on this year, and very little cobra a making. The whaling last year was a complete failure, owing to mismanagement and the refusal of the most skilful hand to engage in it, because of the death of his best man the year before under painful circumstances. Then in regard to cobra, the hurricane destroyed so many of the coconuts that the traders have not thought it worth while trying to obtain any here this year. However, though there is nothing doing to bring money or clothing into the island, yet the very peacefulness that prevails is a great advantage to our work. Were the whaling going on my class of young men would not be receiving instruction. We would like to see our people doing more to promote their worldly comforts and advance civilization among themselves, but as trade, for the most part, is carried on in these islands amongst the natives, we cannot regret to see a suspen-

sion of it at times and the young men allowed to think more about their spiritual welfare. We are enjoying good health and there is not very much sickness amongst the people. The daily morning schools are very fairly attended, so also are all our Sabbath services and week day prayer-meetings. The general conduct of the people is upright, but of course there are many exceptions. Some of the young-men are very wild and wicked; law has not much majesty as yet on this island, and sometimes justice is tardy, hence there is not that wholesome fear of punishment which keeps many within bounds in christian lands. The idle and isolated lives that some lead prevent them rising to any higher stage of enlightenment. Why there are some men and women on this island, yes, on our side of it too, whom I have not seen above a half a dozen times during the four years that we have been here. When I inquire for them I am told that they are away in the bush. Such ones avoid meeting me as much as possible. To search for them at their homes is like hunting for wild pigs, one finds the place where they have been and that is all. However I am glad to say that this class of our people is comparatively small. It is hard uphill work laboring among these people. They are at that stage now where the greatest patience is required. They have been brought out from the lowest depths of heathenism, and they have passed through the fervor and glow of their first love; there is now the long wilderness march for them, extending from their low social and moral state onwards and upwards to civilization and a healthy moral society. Living a consistent christian life requires great watchfulness and prayerfulness in any land, but it is a much harder thing to be faithful and consistent where all the surroundings are diametrically opposed to such a life. Now such is the position of our Aneityum christians. That some fall is not the wonderful thing, but the wonderful thing is that so many prove true under their peculiar circumstances. No one who really understands the power of