Chaplain for the *Curacoa* is the Rev. Dr. Payne of Trinity College, Dublin. He has been in various parts of the world, and visited the Holy Land. He obtained a copy of the New Testament in Aneiteumese for Sir George Grey who is so enthusiastic in the study of languages.

Many of the officers, who smoked cigars, offered some to natives who were standing by, but the natives refused in every instance that I witnessed, although they were pressed again and again to take them. It is usual for seamen to use tobacco in some form, and it is almost impossible to prevent the use of it.

In addition to the excitement caused by the arrival of the *Esk* and then the *Curacoa*, there is a sandal-wood vessel belonging to Mr. Underwood here, detained in the harbor on account of a murder committed by the captain. The name of the vessel is the *Curlew*. The investigation took place to-day, and I understand the captain whose name is Robinson is to be sent to Sydney. He shot the mate of the *Curlew* at Sandwich Island.

Add to all this the novelty of whaling, which has been carried on very successfully this season by Mr. Underwood. There have been six or eight whales caught within the last month. Lathella caught a young shark which had been close to a whale one day, and was harpooned.

Since these large ships arrived there is great demand for fowls, pigs, yams, &c., and surprise is expressed that we cannot supply them with beef, mutton, &c. We cannot afford to supply ourselves, however, and have to make the best apology we can.

To-morrow we intend to present our memorial to Sir W. Wiseman. Our friends from Aname have not arrived yet.

August 9th.—We have just returned from a visit to the *Curacoa*. The Commodore received us very courteously and promised to do all in his power at Tana, Erromanga, and Fate. As the wind was unfavorable for the brethren to come from Aname yesterday, Rev. J. G. Paton. Rev. J. Niven, Captain Fraser and I went as a deputation. The *Dayspring* will accompany the *Curacoa* or be present at Tana and the other islands

with the Commodore so as to afford explanation. The Commodore can do nothing without an interpreter.

The *Esk* will sail to-morrow morning. The *Dayspring* will take my annual report, after her return from Samoa and the Hervey Islands. Meanwhile remember us in all your prayers, and forget not to write us *often*, for we need encouragement. Mrs. McC. joins in kind regards to Mrs. Bayne. The infant is quite well. Yours, very truly,
W. McCULLAGH.

The Sabbath School.

Sabbath School Lessons for February.

FIRST SABBATH.

SUBJECT : *Jacob's Journey* Gen. xxviii. 1-22.

Jacob is the heir of the covenant and around him clusters the interest of the sacred story.

V. 1.—Isaac does willingly what he did before without his own consent. he blesses Jacob and knows that he shall be blessed.

V. 2.—Padan Aram lies northward of Canaan It is the same as Mesopotamia, and it corresponds to a large extent with the country subsequently known as Syria.

V. 9.—Both the act and the motive of Esau in taking another wife were atrociously bad. He was a hardened and ruthless scoundrel thus deliberately to vex his father. His "repentance" and "tears" rather hardened his heart than softened it.

V. 10.—*Beersheba*—A favourite resort of the Patriarchs, in the south of Canaan.— "From Dan to Beersheba"—from the extreme north to the extreme south. *Haran* —in the north-western part of Pedan Aram or Mesopotamia. Here Abraham remained some time after his removal from Ur of the Chaldees, and the elder branch of Tera's family still lived there. It was once a large city. It still retains its old name and is occupied by a few wandering Arabs.

V. 11.—His father was rich and could have sent an escort with him, but no doubt the reason of his being sent away alone was to avoid exciting the suspicion or jealousy of Esau, who might have waylaid and murdered him. The place where Jacob slept on that hard bed was Bethel. The climate was mild, and it was no great hardship for Jacob to sleep in the open air, but no doubt he was weary, homesick, very lonely and sad. His condition at this time might be