

most clamant wants have been met. On the morning of the hurricane, there was just one corner of the house—a part of the dining room, in which we could secure a dry spot to sit or stand in. The natives, however, as soon as the storm had abated, very cheerfully set to work to repair the thatching, and before night we had the most of the apartments in the house pretty well protected again.

HEALTH OF MISSIONARIES.

By the "Dayspring," and other vessels, we have recently heard from all the missionaries on the group. They were well, and diligently at work. Mrs. Goodwill, however, is an exception. She was one of the passengers of the "Dayspring," and is now here. She is taking a trip to Sydney for the benefit of her health. Mr. MacDonald has had some troubles to try him at his station on Fate. By a letter which Mrs. Murray had from Mrs. Neilson, it would appear that the hurricane on Tana was much less severe than it was here. On Erromanga, however, it was very violent. Mr. Robertson's new house was blown down by it, and some vessels wrecked at Dillon's Bay and Elizabeth Bay.

DISPENSING MEDICINES.

Mrs. Murray and our little boy and I are in the enjoyment of good health. Thus far we have escaped the *malady of the land*, as the Aneityumese express fever and ague. Among the natives, however, this and other diseases have been very prevalent since we came to the island. Not a day passes without my having applications from them for medicine. At first they used to come every hour of the day for this purpose, which I found was fast becoming to me an intolerable tax on my time. I have therefore set apart a particular hour every day for meeting with them in the dispensary. In extraordinary cases they understand, of course, that I am willing to administer medicine whenever I may be called upon. But ordinarily this part of my work I manage to discharge from 1 P. M. to 2 P. M. daily, and accordingly I am much less interrupted in other departments of my duty than I otherwise would be.

THE LANGUAGE.

As regards our acquisition of the native language I am thankful to say that our progress has exceeded my best expectations. We can now converse with the natives quite intelligibly, and I have been preaching in Aneityumese regularly every Sabbath for the last five months. I have visited most of our schools and catechised them in their own tongue. The native books to which I have access have of course been of very great assistance to me. Most of my Aneityumese I have learned out of books,

whilst most of Mrs. Murray's has been acquired by personal intercourse with the natives. The consequence is that I know more of the grammatical construction of the language than she, and especially of the more sacred terms and idioms, while she has excelled me in mastering the more colloquial forms of Aneityumese expression.

STUDIES.

My biblical, theological, and literary studies, I make it a matter of conscience to prosecute here, as I was wont to do at home. I devote a certain portion of the day to the grammatical and critical examination of the Scriptures in their original languages in connection with which I study more or less of Syriac and Arabic. I also endeavour to keep up my acquaintance with classical Greek and Latin. In Divinity I am perusing at present with much satisfaction, Dr. Hodge's excellent work on "Systematic Theology," and in history I am perusing Gibbon's immortal work on "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire;" and as a practitioner of the healing art, the study of medicine, of course, comes in for a share of my time. From this you will at once understand that my time is pretty well occupied. Our work has indeed been various since we came here, and, at times, pretty arduous. But as long as God gives us health and strength, we wish to be found diligent in His service.

EARTHQUAKE.

I almost forgot to mention to you that we had also an unusually severe earthquake here about ten days ago. Slight shocks of earthquake are quite frequent on Aneityum, especially during these hot, rainy months; but such a shock as that to which I now refer, Mr. Inglis says, he never felt on the island before. For a few seconds the house rocked like a cradle, and the plaster in some places cracked. One of the lamp chimnies fell off by the shaking, and several other effects have been observed, such as fissures on the sides of the hills, the removal of rocks from their old resting places, &c.

J. D. MURRAY.

REV. P. G. MCGREGOR.

Letter from Rev. John Inglis.

The following letter was written by the Rev. John Inglis to Rev. Dr. Steel, Sydney:

"ANEITYUM, NEW HEBRIDES, }
January 29th, 1873 }

"My Dear Sir,—I am sorry to inform you that the *Dayspring* is lying a total wreck at the mouth of Aneityum Harbour, having been driven on the 6th inst., during one of the most terrific hurricanes that ever passed over this island—at least, since any white man lived on it. No lives were lost; but,