

fore we got back to Futuna; the vessel, meanwhile, having to go on to Aneityum. At the Annual Meeting I was appointed to accompany the "Dayspring" on her next voyage north; it was also appointed that she should call at the Loyalty Islands. Mrs. Inglis thought of accompanying me, but when we came to Aniwa Mr. Paton was not well, and wished to try the effects of the voyage. I therefore left Mrs. Inglis with Mrs. Paton till my return. Mr. Paton was benefited by the voyage, and Mrs. Inglis by her stay on Aniwa. This voyage occupied a month. I am happy and thankful to say, that my wife's health is very much improved by these two visits, and, if the improvement continues, it will not be necessary for us to go up to the colonies at the end of the year, as we were afraid we might have to do; and which we should do with great reluctance, as it would cause both stations on this island to be vacant, and would leave the island without a missionary all the time the "Dayspring" was away, which would be very undesirable.

It is not my intention to give you anything approaching to a full report of all that I have been doing or seeing for these last three months, there are only some two or three things to which I mean to refer.

ECLIPSES.

Although eclipses of the sun and moon occur every year, it is not often that they are observed. Within these two months there have been two eclipses, one of the sun and the other of the moon, both predicted to be visible, and both actually observed, on this side of the globe. We had a fine view of both. I was on Futuna during the eclipse of the sun, which took place on Sabbath, the 18th June. The morning was cloudy and threatened rain, and no traces of the sun were to be seen; but about mid-day the clouds broke up, and the sun shone out among them. At about half past one the first contact was visible, and the eclipse continued till about half-past four. Regarding the sun as a map, hung up on a wall, with the north at the top, the south at the bottom, the east on the right hand, and the west on the left, the appearance of the eclipse may be thus described:—It began on the south-west of the sun's disc, crept gradually round to the east side, and finally went off at the north-east. At the middle of the eclipse the shadow of the moon extended to about the middle of the sun's disc; about a fifth part of the disc was obscured; the light around us was sensibly diminished.

The eclipse of the moon took place a fortnight after that of the sun, on Sabbath, the 2nd of July, or rather on the morning of the 3rd; it began about half past twelve, and ended about half-past two. We had

all landed on Aniwa, from the "Dayspring," on the Saturday before. When the services of the Sabbath, public and private, were over, I volunteered to sit up and awaken the others when the eclipse began. I did so, but some of the brethren were so eager for the sight that they kept peeping out now and again, evidently afraid lest I should fall asleep during my watch. Up till mid-night the sky was remarkably clear, not a cloud passed over the face of the moon, but about twelve o'clock large masses of clouds rose up; and it appeared for a time as if the moon would be entirely hid, but the wind carried them along, breaks occurred, and every now and then we had some clear glimpses, which enabled us to observe the progress of the eclipse during its whole course. This eclipse proceeded in an opposite direction to that of the sun the fortnight before. It began on the north-east quarter of the moon's disc, the place where it ended on the sun; it then crept down along the east side, and finally went off on the south-west side, where that of the sun began. When the eclipse was at the greatest, about a sixth part of the moon's disc was obscured. There was one very striking difference between the two eclipses. In the eclipse of the sun, one-half of the moon's shadow was seen on the sun's disc; a half circle was distinctly marked, reaching to the centre of the sun's disc. But in the eclipse of the moon it was only a small part of the earth's shadow that was seen on the moon's disc; it was a segment of a large circle, and extended only about half-way to the centre of the moon's disc, but covering a much larger portion of her perimeter.

On both occasions we tried to improve the phenomena, for the benefit of the natives, both in conversation and in our public services; not by spiritualising them, which some can do very pertinently, but in a way which seemed to us more suitable for our auditors, viz., by explaining the causes of the eclipses, and calling in God's works as witnesses of the truth of His Word. "You see," we said to the natives, "that large, deep, dark, hollow place on the sun's face, as smooth and round on the edge as if it had been cut out with a knife: what is the cause of that? That is the moon, the half of which is come in between us and the sun." Their eyes opened wider, and they watched with newly awakened interest the progress of the eclipse, as they understood something of the cause of this strange phenomenon. A similar explanation was given when the moon was eclipsed. They were shown how the earth was at that time exactly between the sun and the moon, and how the shadow of the earth was falling on the face of the moon.

The natives were told beforehand what