

lived. Now Selwyn is gone too. They are both with her, where they need no more the imperfect care I could give them.

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I commenced my school again in September, and have about thirty-five children. Four of my favourite scholars died with the cough. Ladela assists me at present in the school, and an excellent assistant he is. He keeps the boys in order. They used to try my patience and my strength very much before he came. They are so unaccustomed to anything like order or discipline at home, that I found it impossible to keep them quiet when I left them to attend to the girls; but now they are very good, and we are getting along nicely. I teach from ten to twelve every day except Saturday. On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday the girls learn sewing in the afternoon. On Wednesday I have a Bible class with the women, which occupies an hour (from two till three) before the prayer meeting. I wish to get a great many more scholars than I have. All the children near come to school; but we wish to have boys and girls come from the distant villages to live on the premises, but cannot get nearly so many as we wish. I have only ten girls and five boys at present. Many of the children are orphans, and are not looked after. They would rather play and roam about than attend school; and parents do not like their children to come here lest they suffer from hunger, and they do not like carrying food very far. Others prevent their girls from coming lest they get married here. The females are so few that each "land" likes to keep their own. These are some of the obstacles we have to contend with, but I cherish the hope that we shall be able to surmount some of them soon, and all bye and bye. \* \* \* \*

Since writing the first part of this letter I have had quite a large addition to my school. It is quite full now. Mr. G. has promised too to allow me to try my long cherished plan of an industrial school for the boys who are running wild. If I am allowed to do as I wish I think that ere very long they will raise plenty of food for themselves. I think I have a young man now who will look after the working department and live with the boys; but I will write you again about it.

After the *Dayspring* returned from Melbourne in June, we were kept very busy in attending to the sick, and improving our premises. We had our old dining room taken down, as we could not prevent it leaking where it joined on to the stone house, and replaced by a new one so cozy and home-like that we like it better than any other room to sit in.

In September the missionary meeting took place here. We had a house-full.—There were babies in every direction. Of

the ten children, four were infants. Our premises looked very cheerful. You would see ladies in their night dresses flying about here and there, looking after their babies; and children amusing themselves among the trees; and natives of different shades and costumes flitting about in all directions. We accommodated all the ladies and children. Three of the gentlemen went off at night and slept on board the *Dayspring*. At meals we had a jam—four had to sit at a corner table at every meal. Still, we had a very pleasant, and I trust not unprofitable, time together.

Lucy has a very nice little girl, nearly six months old. We shall miss her very much when she leaves. Mr. Neilson and she will likely go to Fate for this rainy season, as Mr. Morrison is going to Sydney on account of his health. Ella is growing tall and improving in her studies with Lucy. Lizzie is still in Melbourne. We expect her here next year when the *Dayspring* returns.

Mrs. Captain Fraser has a very nice little house on a hill near us. She has two little girls. Her baby has been very delicate for some time. They will soon be leaving for Australia.

We have had a great many vessels this last year, and might have heard every two months from home, if friends had only written. \* \* \* \*

(From the Reformed Presbyterian Magazine.)

### First Impressions of the Mission Field.

BY MRS M'NAIR.

DILLON'S BAY, ERROMANGA,

August, 1867.

MY DEAR MRS. C.—It is now seventeen months since we left old Scotland. We have seen God's wonders on the mighty deep,—have visited Melbourne, Sydney, etc., have sailed among some of the islands of the New Hebrides, and are now located on blood-stained Erromanga.

Mr. M'Nair and I spent the rainy season on Aneityum beside Mr. and Mrs. Inglis. We occupied a nice little cottage belonging to Mr. I., situated on a hill called Solynapiis and about a quarter of a mile from the mission premises. We had an Erromangan couple living with us for the sake of the language; and I hope we learned something from Mr. and Mrs. Inglis' long experience on the mission field. When on Aneityum we had the privilege of partaking twice of the Lord's Supper in Mr. I.'s church. It was an intensely interesting sight. The natives were respectfully clothed, the utmost order and silence prevailed, and all seemed deeply impressed. We had