

mises and to plant coconut and orange trees about their houses and clear away the scrub. We found it very difficult until about 18 months ago, but since that time our young men especially are decidedly more favorable to our plan and are striving *slowly* to comply.

This winter quite a number of nice houses have gone up and are almost all nicely enclosed with strong stone fences and planted (within these fences) out with young coconut, horse chestnut and orange trees. So we are already seeing the good of keeping at them. "Never give up."

But, as I have worked since very early this morning until late this evening at our school house, and as it is now between 9 and 10 o'clock and I am very tired, I will say good night.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 31st.

I was writing something about the want of neatness, thrift and liberality in the native character last evening, and, as it is never a pleasant subject for me and as I always prefer to try and find out and admire the good traits of our New Hebridean Christian natives to harping about their failings and faults, I would like to checkmate what I wrote last night by telling you this evening what our men did with my assistance and superintendence since Monday morning, that is since day before yesterday.

Well they got some fifteen hardwood posts (cut up the mountain and carried here on their shoulders); put them where the posts were too far apart in the school house, wattle one end and a side of the building, outside, mixed the lime and plastered one side up to the wall plate of an end and the wattling rods they also carried a considerable distance and also the lime, all this they did since Monday morning. The building is 30x20 feet with straight gable and the wattling was run up to the ridge pole at the end.

Besides this three of the young men washed grated and prepared about 60 lbs. of arrowroot and the Christian women sewed about 24 bags for the arrowroot yet to be put up for shipment.

We did not like to ask our people to do more than plaster the outside of the school house until their planting season should be over (about November), but today I said to them that if they would only keep at it every one we would soon finish it, that is the wattling and plastering outside and in, and though I would not press it as it is now their planting season, still I would like it very much so as to have a class room, and that if they

would keep at it we would be able to finish the plastering *completely* by the end of next week, and that would include boating more sand for the lime and burning some more lime, should the kiln we have burned not be enough.

They replied most cheerfully that they would do so and I am greatly pleased and thankful.

I told them when they finished the plastering of their school house they might go at their plantations for the next three months for I would not ask them to do any work, not even mission work, save one voyage of a few days in the mission boat to the extreme S. E. side of the Island.

We all worked from 8 o'clock this morning until 6 this evening and I seldom have felt more like a hard day's work than to-day.

But, besides the plastering of the school house, upon which they are now engaged, our Christian people within 12 miles south of Dillon's Bay and 10 miles North of D. Bay have, since 1st January last, burned two large kilns of lime for the Martyr's church for this station and watted and plastered the building to the very ridge pole inside (the church was put up, weather-boarded, floored, iron roof put on, windows and door put in and floored, painted outside and the ground about it levelled and the church plot enclosed with a strong stone wall 5 feet broad and five feet high between the months of February, 1880, and June of the same year by myself and our Christian natives living in this valley), cut and carried all the wood for this school house, put it up, thatched the roof, over beautifully worked reed wicker-work, made five trips in the mission boat to various parts of this Island, all direct mission work, built a strong wattle and plaster store for our groceries and barter, put on the storm rigging on all the mission buildings and took it off after the hurricane season was past; and besides buildings for themselves and attending to their plantations, which require constant cleaning and care, they have prepared about 1400 lbs. of arrowroot as a contribution towards the mission cause on their own island, such as the purchase of flooring boards, windows and doors for their new school house and tubs and sieves for the preparation of arrowroot in future years, for payment of at least portions of the Holy Scriptures in their own language, and, at my request, they are now making a second lot which I will dispose of for their own benefit, i. e., to get clothing, etc., for themselves.