

when you take a drive through the city for a short distance into the elevated country above, and look down upon it and on the harbour and see all the outlets and little islands, you feel very much charmed with the whole prospect before you. The harbour of Sydney is said to be one of the finest and best in the world, but I cannot vouch for the truthfulness of this statement. There are some men in Sydney, who, by their means, are really doing good in alleviating human suffering and endeavouring to elevate fallen humanity, but in the colonies, which are only of a very recent date, and where the mind of all is eagerly set on the acquisition of riches, such liberal benefactors are but few and far between. I left Sydney by the *Paragon*, our chartered vessel for the islands, on the 24th of May, with much anxiety of mind, after being already 5 months absent from home, without receiving a letter or hearing anything from those "I left behind," and got home on the 24th of June, and found all living except one of the Mare women, after passing through various vicissitudes of nature and severe trials, out of all of which the Lord delivered them. I need not tell you how thankful I felt to Almighty God, for seeing my husband and dear little daughter once more. I am also happy to say that I improved considerably by my trip, which was in no other sense a pleasing or a prosperous one, but I had scarcely arrived at the islands before the old feeling of lassitude returned, and my appetite began to fail; but I must leave all my troubles in the hands of God, who chasteneth every child whom He receiveth.

It is really discouraging that there is so little fruit or extension in this mission field. Notwithstanding all the missionaries who came to these islands during the last two years, only one new station is opened up. Every new arrival had to take an old station, and thus fill up the place of another, whose career came to an end. Of those who entered into their rest, some, after a few years of hard and up-hill work, noble exertions, severe trials and afflictions, have fallen by the malignant influence of the climate; others, such as the late Dr. Geddie, who was greatly blessed of God in the conversion of the Aneityumese, and after a

long life of much usefulness, yielded his spirit to Him who gave it; Mr. Inglis, another honoured labourer on the same island, must, perhaps, very soon put off this tabernacle and cease from the work in which he so much delights; while the lives of others were taken by the hard and cruel blows of the assassin: and thus while God has given us hard things, wine of astonishment and many tears to drink, we do not see any good accruing from our labours. Oh! may the Lord give us also a banner, which, in all its gospel beauty, grandeur and attraction, may be displayed because of truth, and that in the inward parts, "That his beloved people may be delivered from thrall," and the heathen converted unto God.

Now for a few words about the natives, and only a few, because, after this long digression, and after already writing so much, I dare not monopolize all your space in the *Record*. Some, who profess friendship and receive garments, give the loan of them to the most expert thieves living in this vicinity, so that when they visit "Ban tas sal," the ship of the white man, they may conceal under these garments whatever they may steal while on board. Some of the traders, until better informed, generally blamed the natives employed with us. Others of the male sex, who were not satisfied with the garments which were given to them, took from their women theirs also, and decorated themselves with all in a most fantastic style. Were I to particularize this, it would only excite laughter, and thus it would be unsuitable for such a magazine as a *Church Record*. At first we used to give the women skirts and jackets, on which we thought we could improve by giving them wrappers, but, to our astonishment, the men came dressed in these also. The shirts and pants and such they get, after using them for a short time, they dispose of them among themselves, and very frequently sell them to the traders for knives.

SYDNEY, October 6th, 1873.

I am very unwell to-day, and had not been able during the voyage to add to or finish all I intended to write at this time. I must now very briefly sum up, by way of apology, inasmuch as we expect a second visit of the *Paragon*.