

"Sydney, New South Wales,
Jan. 23rd, 1880.

* * * Our vacation will soon slip away, as we have to sail on the first day of April for our island home. We will be glad to get back to our people. They were very sorry to see us leave them. I had no idea that they were so much attached to us as they were, until we saw them crying on our leaving the shore. Some of them had strips of red calico up for flags. Their conduct was more consistent for some weeks before we left than for long before. We are still hopeful for them. I had six attending the candidates class wishing to be admitted to the church before I left. If they continue on and shew evidences of sincerity they will be admitted this year before Christmas. Our rule is to keep them a whole year under special training before admitting them."

"Aneityum, Sept. 2nd, 1880.

* * * We had a rather long and rough passage down from Sydney of sixteen and a half days. As we were ten days behind time in leaving, the natives feared that the vessel had been lost and their missionary gone."

"And now as to our field of labor. * *

* * * "Watchman what of the night?" The answer was—"The morning cometh and also the night." So also is it with us on Aneityum. The morning cometh bright and cheerful to some, while dark dreary night hangs over others. The latter condition applies more especially to the majority of our young men and women; they love the darkness rather than the light, their deeds being evil. But where, I may ask, is that christian country, in which it cannot be truly said of many that they love the darkness rather than the light? Though we are at times cast down by the indifference of many and the opposition of a few, yet we are not discouraged. The seed is growing, the kingdom is advancing in power.

During our absence from the island last summer, the people were most faithful in carrying on the work. There was a severe

hurricane in January which injured the church and mission buildings very much, as well as destroying food, fences, and things generally. The people in charge of our station did all that they could to repair the damage done and prevent things being destroyed by the continuous rains which followed the hurricane."

We received a warm welcome on our return from the colonies. We were agreeably surprised to find that our services among them are so highly valued. The meetings, on both Sabbaths and Wednesdays, were unusually well attended for some time after our return. The attendance at the prayer-meetings is somewhat smaller now, but this being planting time accounts for the falling off. Our afternoon school is better attended this year than hitherto. Mrs. A. has a fine class of boys and girls numbering about thirty, while I have fifteen young men and women in my class. These classes are held four days every week; Wednesday being occupied with my candidates class and prayer-meeting. We have succeeded in getting some of the young people more interested in learning now than they were formerly, however there is plenty of room still for improvement in this direction.

Our arrowroot contributions have only reached the aggregate of 832 lbs., being only a little more than one-half of the amount sent away last year. The deficiency this season is entirely owing to the hurricane having destroyed so much of the plant when young. The people did very well indeed to collect the quantity now obtained. They entered most heartily into the work. The proceeds derived from the sale of the arrowroot this year go to the Foreign Mission fund of our church. All previously collected went to pay for the Bible, which is now all printed and paid for, and the last volume is now on its way to the island. Before the year closes, if no accident prevent it, the Aneityumese people will have the whole Bible in their hands; printed in small pica type strongly bound in calf, marble-edged, in three 8vo. volumes. Thus this year marks an era in the history