

then joined us, some going to Aniwa, and others to Tanna. The party for the latter had a very large turtle, recently caught, to take as a present to the chief and the people near Kwamera, whom they were going to visit. Mr. Inglis said that turtle was an evidence of Christianity, designed to meet Tannese objections to it, and was in effect as important there, as the treatises of Butler, Paley, and Chalmers had been in Great Britain. It was alleged by the Tannese that if Christianity were embraced, no more turtles would be got in Tanna. The Aniwanese had become Christians and still caught turtles; the plea, therefore, could not be entertained. I trust that the argument would have its weight at the feast. Mr. Lee, our excellent second officer, told me how much he was interested in seeing the religious services of these natives in the fore-castle. Being of a poetic turn of mind he embodied his description in rhyme. Mr. Inglis again supplied us all round with baskets of oranges from his magnificent trees, which now yield twenty thousand annually. I think there could be no less than a hundred in each *baro-baro*, or basket, sent on board. We were now a large party in the vessel. Every place in the cabin was utilized, and some were sleeping on the floor.

At Fotuua next morning, there was a further increase, though Mr. Copeland's departure diminished our cabin company a little. The number on Board was upwards of sixty. The natives from Aniwa were returning with their property. There was the usual scene on shore, and many pigs and fowls were brought on board. One of the pigs was wild and fierce, and offered to bite the legs of passengers. Mr. Macarthur, himself in danger, soon despatched him with a blow from a hammer.

We reached Aniwa on Saturday evening, and I landed, according to promise made ere I left Sydney, to spend a short time with Mr. and Mrs. Paton. Mr. and Mrs. Inglis, Messrs. Annand, Milne, and Watt also landed. As the wives of the three last were there awaiting them, we presented a formidable company to be provided for till Monday, for the ship had to wait till then. But Mrs. Paton's resources were equal to the occasion, and we were all accommodated. It would have tasked the powers of most manes and ministers' wives in civilized life to have done as much! But Mr. Paton had even lodged the whole Synod in 1871! His premises are large and commodious.

On Monday, Mr. and Mrs. Neilson with their two children, and Mr. Robertson and the captain joined us so that there was a still larger party to dine, which they all did very comfortably, though eighteen.

Goats, pigs, young cattle were to be taken on board at Aniwa, and this required

a very great effort. The catching of them, getting of them to the shore, then on board the boats were laborious. Indeed it is astonishing what an amount of work has to be done for the mission by the vessel. Some missionaries were getting goats and calves from Mr. Paton's stock, which had been increasing; and the vessel was making provision for its commissariat. Natives were busy bartering coconuts and other articles. At length the mission party were got safely off before the evening. There were then on board eight missionaries, six of their wives, with four children—making eighteen in the cabin. It was thus evident that all the room in the vessel was needed. This intercourse of the missionary families with each other once a year is of great importance to the health and spirits of all, and does much to refresh and animate both mind and body for the arduous work of the season in their solitary spheres.

The vessel proceeded to Tanna, Erromanga, Fate, and Nguna, and was absent nineteen days when she again appeared off Aniwa in the forenoon of July 9th. She did not, however, get near enough to call. I will describe my sojourn in Aniwa in a separate paper. Next morning the boat was ready by breakfast time. I then took leave of my kind friends at the mission house and of the Aniwan people, and rejoined the vessel. I was happy to find all on board well, and that good news were brought from the different stations. I was also much gratified to get letters from home, containing favorable intelligence of my family and flock for a month after my leaving them. I was in this respect more favored than they, for they would not have received any letters from me. It is one of the great disadvantages of voyaging in these seas, that communication is so unfrequent and so uncertain. I took from Aniwa coconuts for my Sabbath Scholars in Sydney; these and some for the vessel, as well as other produce of the Island, were got on board by 11½ o'clock.

There was a good breeze and we were at Port Resolution, Tanna, by two o'clock. As a landsman, I was rather out of sorts and did not go ashore in the boat that went for Mr. Neilson's mail. After it returned the wind fell and we lay becalmed near Sulphur Bay in the immediate vicinity of the volcano, which as the night fell, assumed its fiery glare, and became, as mariners find, often to their advantage, the great light of the New Hebrides. In the course of the night we were borne southward, and at dawn we were at Kwamera the station of the Rev. William Watt. There we were joined by Mr. and Mrs. Inglis who had been there on a visit, and by Mr. and Mrs. Watt who were to accompany us to Sydney. The first boat-boat