

Waitit is still living and convalescing. His spine seems to be very weak. He is unable to walk but he can sit up now and crawl around a little.

Our old chief Navalak, of whom I spoke last year as acting so nobly, has been ill for two months with fever and weak back. He too is recovering slowly.

There was a very sad case of suicide on Mr. Laurie's side a fortnight ago. One of the old elders, and one of the very best workers (Saimona), and a heathen lad from our side, went out to sea and drowned themselves together. I have not space left to tell you the circumstances.

I regret to have to report that the whooping cough has lately carried off about 60 young people on this island, so that the population is unquestionably decreasing.

I expected to have been able to have given you a statement about last year's arrowroot, but I have not received any word from Mr. Cosh about it yet. The people are just beginning to gather this year's crop.

We are urgently needing more missionaries here. Now is the time for the churches to work. We are glad to see that the fourth missionary has sailed for Trinidad. When will the fourth sail for the New Hebrides?

With love to all friends,

Sincerely yours,

J. ANNAND."

Letter from Mr. Annand to the Ladies' of Gays River.

Aneityum, June 28th, 1881.

My Dear Friends:—

Please accept our thanks for the valuable box of mission goods which you contributed and sent to us in December last. The box arrived here in April in perfect condition, everything being in as good a state as when it left your hands. The articles sent were also all most useful and are a great aid to us in keeping the girls clothed.

FASHIONS IN DRESS.

However you might have spared yourselves the labor of sewing the dresses. The material alone would have been better in this respect as we are anxious to teach the people to do all their own cutting and sewing, and certainly these ladies have more spare time for that work than you have. They are quite

willing for the most part to sew their own clothes but when it comes to sewing for the men and boys they are not nearly so ready to do it. In fact the men and boys sometimes make their own shirts when they cannot get them ready-made. The cut and fit is not always perfect, however fashion here is not very tyrannical in regard to the style of dress worn. The men, however, much prefer to wear their shirts outside their trousers which to strangers looks rather ridiculous. Since that is the fashion here we much prefer seeing the tails as short as possible.

LOVE NOT RUNNING SMOOTHLY.

Last year when we went North to the meeting of Synod at Efate, a native of Eromanga at Mr. Roberts station wished to sell a spear to Mr. Laurie for a shirt. It seems the poor man wished to get married and he had no shirt wherein to appear before the congregation; as marriages here are always solemnized in the church. Mr. Laurie wished to purchase the spear but the only shirt that he had with him that he could well spare was his night shirt and a rather long one at that. This he offered and the man gladly accepted it. A few weeks after the marriage ceremony was to have been performed. The groom appeared in full dress with nothing but the long white shirt and seated himself before the minister expecting his lady love to come and seat herself beside him. However the bride was unwilling to have him, and instead of coming to church she hid in one of the houses, not on account of the dress however, but because he was a heathen and she was unwilling to live with him. The poor man left the church in disgust, pulled off his long garment and tucked it under his arm and rushed off home disgusted with civilization and all its encumbrances.

UNRELIABLE SERVANTS.

Since I began writing this letter the husband of Mrs. Annand's head servant came in to inform us that his wife had gone away this evening and would not be back until Saturday evening (this is Monday evening), because one of the men on the station had said something to her that she did not like. This is just a sample of what we very often have to put up with here. Our servants may run off at any hour no matter how much we may be needing them at the time. It would require a large book to tell you all about their ways and doings here. Their hearts are very easily broken (as they express it), even by a word.