

The islet upon which we live is a dry and rocky one, rising some fifty feet above the sea, and clothed with a fine tropical forest to the water's edge. It is nearly a mile in length and about a third of a mile in width. The salt water lying between us and the main land, about a quarter of a mile distant, forms a safe and beautiful harbour. Our house overlooks the harbour with its beautiful placid waters, while a short walk back to the south shore brings us to a bold, rocky and storm-washed coast. Our house is a pretty weather-board cottage of four rooms, with back and front veranda and galvanized iron roof. It is lined throughout and painted white, with chocolate-coloured doors and windows; a small pantry, bath room and store room are joined to the house, while our kitchen and yam house comprise another building a little detached from the dwelling. The shady trees reserved with the underbrush cleared away form a beautiful shady retreat. Two noble banyan trees, kings of our forest, stand near by. Some future day when a garden is made and the forest somewhat more cleared away, ours will be a very lovely station. So much for the place where we hope to spend many happy, useful years.

Now for a few words regarding the people among whom we are settled. On this islet there is quite an important village. Though the people live here for health, yet they have their plantations on the main land, crossing the harbour every day in their canoes. There are also ten villages on the main land not far away, speaking the same language, while on this south side of Santo there are people speaking three other dialects, all of whom are now reckoned in our parish. However, by acquiring one language, we shall in time be able to work the whole of this south district of Santo, leaving three-quarters at least of the whole island unprovided for. We are glad to say that our people thus far are very friendly; every day they are round our house in greater or less numbers. We have found an outlet for some of our mission goods from the outset. The dress of our people was in great need of reform. While that of the men is passably decent, that of the women will not bear description, a few leaves and beads being the complete dress. They have, however, shown less aversion to wearing our clothes than we anticipated. The greater part of the women visiting our house put on some clothes. Of course we have not as yet opened a school nor begun any formal instruction; our knowledge of the language is as yet too limited for that. Mr. Annand can speak a little of it now. Polygamy is practised among them. One man here, the most married of all, has eight wives, while another has three, and