

granted there was but one at the original settlement of the island. The first mentioned appears to be the most philosophical in its structure, though the second is the most mellifluous. The Yoku is spoken at Dillon's Bay and on the southern coast.—The Sic at Rowvilyow and on the eastern shore; these two are closely allied, and are in all respects substantially the same. The principal difference is that the Sic contains an entirely new set of possessive adjective pronouns. It is the dialect in which my predecessor wrote. In this I have not followed him, though he was probably right; for I consider it inconsistent not to speak the dialect of the people among whom I was living. No practical difficulty is experienced, however, in either case. Probably the largest division of the natives speak the Sic. The Ura is spoken by about five hundred people who live on the north-western coast. This dialect is quite unintelligible to the people of the two tribes just mentioned. The Utaha speaking people are nearly extinct, there being only about thirty now living. This dialect is quite different from the others. The last mentioned is said to be the most unpronounceable of all. The people speaking it are also nearly extinct.

Of the third and fourth I have collected the heads of grammar and full vocabularies, besides having composed the Lord's prayer and the Creed in each; and shall do the same, when an opportunity occurs, with the remaining one. A comparison of these dialects with each other has explained some difficulties in the one with which the most accurate acquaintance is necessary. The two last mentioned, however, are but literary curiosities, and soon will be the only memorials extant to show that the tribes, once powerful, which spoke them ever had an existence. It is indeed a melancholy reflection to think of people passing away under such circumstances; and that they are melting away like snows before an April sun in Nova Scotia, is but too painfully evident. In my opinion, in three generations more the census of this island will be easily taken. In so far as information can be collected not more than seventeen children were born on it during the past year, but thirty-four have died, the most of whom were killed.

SCHOOL AND SUPPLIES.

The entire number on the Mission premises at the present time is forty. We have no more on the Sabbath. Of these twelve can read; ten have spelled through twenty chapters of Luke; and eight are in the same book, though not so far on. For some months I have had three candidates for baptism on probation; but there has been no addition to the roll since last year. One

communicant has been suspended; but the others, eleven in number, have maintained their christian profession.

I have had a few young men from Rowvilyow here with a view to training them for usefulness among their own people; they will be very valuable aids to the missionary who may be settled on that side of the island. They have been very serviceable to me. I have confidence in them. One of the foremost, however, has recently disgraced himself and brought discredit on his profession.

In my last year's report reference was made to the scarcity of food. When I returned from Aneiteum last year, finding that beans were growing here as well as there, I made a proclamation offering to buy all that might be brought for sale. Buying, however was tedious, perplexing work; but it turned out to be a good speculation. They came in in small quantities; and the one who brought two pounds expected as much *nipmi*—pay—for them as the man who had ten pounds. In three months I had half a ton bought which at 2d. per lb., the selling price on Aneiteum, were worth £10, and paid for them with the mission goods. Mrs. Inglis gave us a firkin of pork, and thus I was enabled to give those living on the premises a mess of beans and pork, two and three times a week for as many months. In addition I bought two or three bags of biscuit, and as many of rice, from Capt. Fraser, ere the *Dayspring* sailed for the Colonies. In this way the Mission has been sustained during another year, and without any additional cost to the church. These stores were of great service to us when we began in April to erect a new school-house. During this and the following month one was built 40 × 20, a very good building of its kind and which answers the double purpose of a school-room and church. It is well adorned with suggestive pictures, a large map of the world, and a chart of animals.

During the last year we have received from the Rev. George Mackie of South Yarra, Melbourne, a box valued at £10: We get £5 annually from his Sunday school. In Mr. Mackie we have a true, generous, warm-hearted friend. He has a namesake here which is a bond of union. Mr. Henry also sent us half a ton of yams; and through Mrs. Henry, Mrs. Penell of New Town, Sydney, presented us with a large bag of rice. Mrs. Pennell inquired what she could do to assist us, and Mrs. H. very properly suggested food. From Mr. Simmers, Merchant, Williamstown we received, fifteen knives with sheaths; one thousand assorted fish-hooks; twelve pairs of scissors. Mr. S. gave us a gift as valuable last year.