

knew nothing of building but what the missionaries taught them, all this meant a great deal of hard work for Mr. Geddie and Mr. Inglis. Mrs. Geddie and Mrs. Inglis were kept very busy, too. They taught the women to make, wash and iron their clothes, and other kinds of housework, and Mrs. Inglis taught them to make excellent arrowroot, which, as you will hear, proved of great value to the Mission. In 1862 there were over three hundred Church members, besides large numbers, who professed to be Christians, had given up their heathen practices, wore such clothes as they could procure, and regularly attended church and school. That year also a Missionary Society was formed at each station, twelve hundred present at each meeting, when the native Christians resolved to do all they could to support and extend Mission work, and contributed five thousand five hundred pounds of arrowroot. Making arrowroot is not easy work, and that so much was freely given is a pretty good proof that they had learned to value the Gospel, and these liberal contributions have been continued year after year. During all this time the work of translating the Scriptures had been steadily carried on by both missionaries, and from time to time portions had been printed in their own press, and the boys and girls in the schools learned a great many chapters by heart. By the year 1859 the whole of the New Testament had been translated, and as the Bible Society offered to print it, Mr. and Mrs. Inglis went to England to superintend the work, and in 1863 they returned, bringing with them two thousand copies, printed in large type and well bound. The whole cost of printing this edition was paid by the natives by arrowroot, and some years after, when the Old Testament was also translated and printed, it was paid for in the same manner. They have in all paid seven thousand dollars for books, and all by arrowroot. While Mr. and Mrs. Inglis were away, a dreadful disease broke out on the island, of which one-third of the people died, and Mr. and Mrs. Geddie had a very trying time, so in 1864, when they had been eighteen years out, they returned to Nova Scotia for a visit. You may be sure they were warmly welcomed, and during their stay they did much to increase the interest felt in the Mission. Mr. Geddie told the Synod, at its meeting in Toronto, that he had tried to get some of the old idols to bring home with him, but that idolatry had so completely disappeared that he could find no god on the island