

rial divisions. There is first, a strip of fruitful land round the coast, easily distinguished by the cocoa-nut trees which it yields. There is next, higher up, and a short distance inland, a narrow belt of comparatively barren land; and then the heart of the island, which rises into a great number of mountain peaks of various forms and dimensions, all exuberantly green with a most luxurious vegetation.

The native villages are to be found, for the most part, along the coast, and among the shady glens and wild, romantic highlands of the interior. The islands, I am happy to say, is well-watered with springs and fresh water streams. As you are aware, it produces a variety of tropical fruits, as the cocoanut, breadfruit, lemon, orange, pine-apple, &c. Of the vegetables of Aneityum, that which is the most valuable as an article of food, is the taro, which grows in greater abundance and to greater perfection here than on any other island of the group.

#### OUR MISSION STATION

Is most beautifully and advantageously situated. We could scarcely expect to find a more lovely residence than this on the face of the earth. No description could do it justice. Nature, it is said, has done more for this station than for any other in the South Pacific. Our house faces, and is but a few paces from the shore of a convenient and well-sheltered harbour. Near by, to the north of us, flows a small river, which supplies us with plenty of good water. The vegetable and flower gardens are extensive, and tastefully laid out. The banana plantation is a particularly valuable one. There is quite a little village-like display of houses on the premises, all pure white, and embowered in a variety of fruit and ornamental trees. The church and dwelling house are stone buildings. Seldom would you find, on any mission ground, so beautiful and substantial a church as the large edifice which adorns the Aneleauhat station. The school house, printing office, servants' houses, and all the other buildings on the premises, except that which we live in, are built of wood and plaster. All these, I am sorry to say, are at present in a state of di-repair. Their cocoanut thatching especially is rapidly falling into a state of decay.

#### THE PEOPLE.

With respect to the natives, I may say, that they seem to be a docile, loveable sort of people, but not, fully corresponding to that character of simple, fervent Christianity, which I have heard them described as exemplifying. Nevertheless, we have certainly cause to thank God, and take courage from the blessed change which we have seen, has been effected in the condi-

tion of these natives, through missionary effort. There is here a fully organized Christian Church.

#### STATISTICS.

In connection with it, there are about 300 Communicants, the majority of whom were born in heathenism, but with whom we have had the privilege, since coming here, of commemorating the death of the Saviour of men of all nations, by partaking of the appointed emblems of His broken body and shed blood. There are about 20 schools, on this side of the island. These are taught, a short time every morning, by an equal number of native teachers. I have visited some of the schools, and succeeded pretty well in making myself understood, while asking them a few simple questions. There is a prayer meeting in the church once a week, which is attended, on an average, by about a hundred people. They sit at prayer, and stand in singing. I am endeavouring to improve this part of the worship (the singing,) by giving lessons in music, every morning, to a few men and women whom I am training for preceptors. Meanwhile, I myself lead in singing.

#### PUBLIC WORSHIP.

On Sabbath, adhering, as yet to Dr. Geddie's plan, we hold two diets of worship, without any intermission. We meet at 9 a. m. and dismiss at about 11 a. m. At 3 p. m. we have Sabbath school, which is attended by old and young. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is dispensed quarterly: and, on these occasions, the people of all the lands on our side of the island, and usually, also, a goodly number from Mr. Inglis' side, assemble and fill the large church. With my imperfect knowledge of the language, I have not yet undertaken to preach to the natives, except through an interpreter. I have been reading short prayers, however, on Sabbaths; and have always presided at public worship, as I could read the native Hymns and Scriptures, and ask the elders to lead in prayer, and exhort.

#### PROGRESS IN THE LANGUAGE.

I am daily adding words to my Aneityumese vocabulary, the pronunciation of the language and the formation of its sentences seem to be growing less formidable, and we are gradually acquiring more fluency in conversing with the natives in their own tongue, independently of the crutches of signs and bits of English; which is an evident gratification to them and as oil to ourselves in our intercourse with them.

#### CLIMATE.

We have now been here four months, and I am thankful that so far we have enjoyed good health. The climate we have found quite agreeable; much more so than