

*cockroaches*. Some of them were an inch and a half long, and more than half an inch broad. With these nasty and offensive brutes the vessel was swarming. Their stench was enough to disgust and sicken any person. Both Mrs. Geddie and my own good lady were sick almost all the voyage, so that by the time we came to Aneiteum, they were almost reduced to skeletons, so much so, that some of the natives remarked of Mrs. Geddie, that she looked like a *natmas*,—that is to say, a spirit or ghost,—but I am happy to say that they were not long on shore until they became very much improved. On our arrival at Aneiteum, I had almost decided on taking a trip around the Islands, as the *Dayspring* was about to go round to bring the missionaries to the meeting; but, on learning that I would not see all the Islands, I changed my mind, and thought it better to remain with Dr. Geddie, as he was anxious that I should do so, and see something of the working of the Mission. There is no station or harbour in all the New Hebrides group that can in any sense be compared with Anelgoubat, as to its scenery; in fact, the scenery is magnificent, if not bordering on the sublime. I visited with Dr. Geddie, some of his out-stations, and was much pleased with all I saw, but above all, I was highly delighted with the exquisite taste, order and arrangement exhibited in laying off the Mission premises and garden. I have no time to give any proper description of them. The garden, with its paths well gravelled with small shell and coral, is quite a credit to Mrs. Geddie. The dwelling-house is a considerable large stone building, with a large kitchen to the back of it. On the front there is a good verandah which serves a good purpose in a warm country like this. The house is well furnished, and that mostly with the Dr. and Mrs. Geddie's handiworks, and, I should also say, with some of the natives' ingenious work. There are, near each other, the school-house, the orphan school, the study, the printing house, and house for entertaining strangers, and several houses for natives, besides the houses for the boys and girls who live on the premises. Of these, there are 13 girls and a number of boys, who are all being educated and taught in different subjects. I never saw a number of boys and girls live so happily together. I have never seen the appearance of a quarrel, or of anger, while I was there, among any of them. Mrs. Goodwill and I liked them very much. I should say that all these buildings form a little village, and are well shaded with trees. The church, which is a large stone building, is over 100 feet in length and 40 feet in breadth. There are seven beams 14 inches square, extending from side to side, not only acting as binders, but also as supports by which to give stability to the roof; which is well thatched with cocoa-nut branches. The building is well plastered inside, but has no seats except Mrs. Geddie's family seat and a few others made like sofas, which are placed all along the sides and ends of the church. The floor is made of plaster, which is well covered with mats, upon which the natives squat down. They are very well behaved during the services in church, and I was much pleased to see most of the little boys and girls sit nearest the pulpit, with countenances as grave and becoming as old men and women. In a word, the church, which is a fine building, reflects much credit upon Dr. Geddie and the natives. It seems to me a puzzle how they ever built it. This will appear all the more difficult when we consider that they had to bring the stones upon rafts some distance, and had to haul large trees three or four miles out of the forest, without any assistance except their own strength and ingenuity; but I suppose the whole difficulty may be solved with the old saying "that where there is a will there is a way." I am quite sure that there is not a real Nova Scotian who would not feel proud and delighted at seeing all things, as they were at our arrival, in and around about the Mission premises, in such excellent order. The Dr. said that things were in a far better condition than they were when he left for Australia. The attendance at church was also far better, because they felt determined to show that during Missi's absence they would not become lukewarm or indifferent. I have attended a communion season, both at the Rev. J. Inglis' and Dr. Geddie's.