

Our two little children with us, Annie, six years, and Mabel, one year, old, are well excepting the present sickness of Mabel which we trust will soon give place to health again.

Mrs. R. though daily at work does so because she feels it must be done and because, helpful though trained natives are, you require to be at the beginning, the middle, and the end of everything yourself, with any of these New Hebrideans, if it is to be well and satisfactorily done. But though almost constantly at work from 6 a. m. to 8 or 9 p. m., Mrs. R. is not strong, and for several years not even in good health. Just now she is suffering from fever and ague and inflamed throat and weakness, and the weather is very warm and clammy and most trying even to strong people. Until this attack Mrs. R. has not had fever for a long time.

The winter months—May to October—are very pleasant, but the summer or rainy season is most relaxing. North or N. W. wind, rain, rain, rain, thunder and lightning, moist, clammy weather, the sea breaking and dashing against the rocks closing the passage to the bay, no "Dayspring", no dear friend of a like spirit to spend a few hours or days with us, and, to add to this, the hardest of all, excepting when our own hearts are cold and God is not in all our thoughts, is that *three* of our dear children are fifteen hundred miles from us, and that for nearly three years we have not seen them.

But I am afraid you will think I am getting gloomy in my old age, and that my habit of looking at the bright side has been exchanged for that of picking out the dark spots and the discouraging points in regard to our field, people and work, and that you will be almost forced to say, "Why, theirs is a most gloomy, hopeless mission station, have they no white spots in their blankets?" Yes we have, and I will close with a few white spots, or bits of news.

Regarding our work on Erromanga. The Lord's Supper was dispensed on the 4th Sept., at Cook's Bay, to one hundred and fifty adult church members. Five hundred people were present at that gathering from Saturday to Monday. Had Communion at Dillon's Bay last Sabbath for all who were not able to be present at Cook's Bay. Twenty-five parrots, also ourselves, and Capt. or Count Ranzow, of Copenhagen. Thirty-five

teachers were paid on Monday last up to 31st Dec., 1887.

Besides regular morning school for adults on Dillon's Bay, three young men teach in the forenoon a class for children, and this year twenty-two boys and girls attend daily, except Saturdays. Three married teachers and one single man are teachers on Epi and Tongoa, and three married couples assist the missionaries on Tongoa and Malikula, as servants.

We have shipped 3300 lbs. of arrowroot this year, 1887, (the largest amount ever contributed by the Erromangans in one year) for payment of books.

We have thoroughly repaired our house from top to ground, removed the thatch, put on new rafters, and have almost finished the putting on of an iron (corrugated) roof, and under the iron we put first $\frac{3}{4}$ inch boards, then felt. The natives have paid for all the iron roofing and rafters and battens, but as yet I have paid for the lining boards, felt, nails, posts and flooring. We have built a new kitchen with a cellar for milk, etc., under.

Our natives have made, (free labor) 4 kilns of lime, built an excellent plastered school house at Cook's Bay, cut and carried fuel for us, have given us 12 large hogs since our return from Santo, and along with these perhaps a ton of yams.

The teachers on the east side have refunded me in cash, since May last, all except £5 of the cost of a fine whale boat which I got made in Sydney for them, and which the "Dayspring" brought down. The cost of the boat in Sydney with all fixings, sail, oars, anchor and chain, was £40 5s. sterling. With this boat they collect the arrowroot bulb, visit the districts and bring the arrowroot, when prepared, from East Erromanga. They have put storeroom rigging on all our own and the mission buildings on East and West Erromanga, only last week. These buildings number 17 in Dillon's Bay, 2 in Cook's Bay and 5 in Portina Bay, or 24 in all.

Two sons of the murderer of John Williams are leading teachers, one of the adult, the other of the infant class, within a gunshot of where Williams bled to death forty-nine years ago.

These are bright spots are they not?

I enclose a proof of a photo I took of Mr. McKenzie and family. We much enjoyed a two days' visit from them on their way to Sydney.