

speaking from Genesis, showing them their state. We sang and explained another hymn. Dec. 13. Went to the Bari Bakhar. First sang, then L. spoke. I followed, reading Matt. xi. and last verse. Read an anecdote and spoke earnestly. They listened with much joy. Sang two more hymns."

Home Life in Santo, New Hebrides.

November 18, 1889.

MRS. ANNAND.—You ask for further information about our people and their home life and customs. I presume you know very little about these natives, so I shall be the more free to write of their life. To understand the dress and some customs here, you must remember that this is a tropical country, the temperature averaging close on the maximum line of heat. Our coldest season averages quite as much heat as your summer months in Canada. The houses are for shelter from rain, very seldom from cold, and clothing is not required for warmth. As the visitor sees the people on the sea-beach, they look happy and gay as they lie on the leaves or sand under some dense foliage, laughing, talking or playing about, one might conclude they are quite happy; however they are not. Many have disgusting sores on their bodies, others look haggard and worn, especially the women. The village here consists of a cluster or several clusters of grass huts as totally devoid of orderly arrangement as can well be imagined. The shape of the houses resembles somewhat a boat turned bottom up and covered with thatch made from the leaves of the sago palm. The hut is about eight feet high in the middle, and from twenty to thirty feet long. The door is a hole in one end, from two to three feet high and about two feet wide. Within one of these huts live a man and woman and perhaps a child or two. The girls are sold away in marriage when ten or twelve, and boys at that age sleep in the men's eating house, or social house. This latter house is just a roof with both ends open. Two or three sets of cooking stones and places for fires are seen in every hut, as no woman is allowed to eat food cooked on the