

selves from coming to worship. The first Sabbath of April we had only our good chief; on the following Sabbath we had three, still they are only few compared with what they were last year. It is very sad and discouraging after all our efforts to win them to Christ, to see wretches returning from Queensland and Fiji committing horrible deeds. Mostly all the murders that took place since we came to Santo, were by returned labourers.

I long exceedingly to hear about the *Dayspring*, and I feel very anxious about Mrs. G. and baby. May the good Lord bring them back in safety. During this season I felt it very trying to be all alone, and especially when abandoned by the natives. The object of their doing so is in accordance with their superstition. They believe that if they all forsake a person, he will certainly die; they think that their countenancing a person is a great charm, and a preventative from certain kinds of death, but to their great astonishment, I am recovering again by the blessing of God. On the 14th March a vessel was seen by the natives to the south of Santo. On the 8th of April another vessel was trying to make the harbour, but could not come to anchor; on the 9th and 10th she was south our station; on the evening of the 10th a stiff breeze came from the north-west, and so she put to sea. I felt so sad and down-hearted. Oh! I was so anxious to hear about those who were absent. On the evening of the 14th she returned, and with difficulty made to the opposite side of the harbour. She had sprung a leak, and was short of provisions. The captain having parted with more of his supplies in Efate than he should, consequently he was now in want. On the 16th, he called and gave me the very sad news of the loss of the *Dayspring* on Aneityum. I had all along a presentiment that there was something wrong. I frequently endeavoured to banish the strange feeling from my mind, but it would return and haunt me with renewed vigour. The loss of the *Dayspring* will be very disastrous to the Mission, but still what a blessing no lives were lost. I felt so thankful to Almighty God.

A great number of vessels and all on board of some of them have been lost

among the islands by the hurricanes. One was a Fijian schooner called the *America*, Capt. Dillon, master. He and his bride had called on us several times while he was in port. He left here on Christmas day. On the 15th January the vessel and all on board, except one Sandwich man, were lost. The captain who charged the crew of the *Dayspring* the handsome sum of £130, lost his vessel since. She is a total wreck, I understand.

You all, no doubt, long before this have heard of the death of Dr. Geddie, the father of the Mission. I feel confident that you will be sorry that he was not spared to carry through the press the printing of the Bible in the Aneityumese language. It would have been a great honour to himself and to the Church to which he belonged, but what he has left undone, the good Lord has others in the field to finish.

Ever since the cannibal feast, the natives are watching one another like cats, spearing and shooting one another with arrows. Several have been wounded, but none killed. One result is that very few attend worship. Things are in a very bad state, and there is no appearance of improvement.

On the 3rd day of May I had a second attack of dysentery, and fever and ague every third evening. I was brought down a good deal, but, thanks be to God, I was in no sense as bad as I was during the first attack. I am slowly recovering, but it will be some time before I become myself again. Oh! how I long to hear from or see Mrs. G. and baby. Every day is as long as a week, and every week as long as a month, and every month as long as a year. May the good Lord ere long bring them back again in safety!

On the night of the 12th May, we had a most beautiful total eclipse of the moon. It came on about 8 o'clock and continued until about midnight. The night was fine and clear, but soon became almost total darkness, such as that of Egypt.

On May 23rd the natives commenced again the thatching of our house, and finished both ends, but the verandah is left for another while. You can easily imagine what amount of comfort a sick person would have in a house in which