

season that that venerable personage—the oldest inhabitant of Aneityum—ever saw. It occurred ten day's sooner than the last year's one, on the 25th of December, the day commonly called *Christmas* by Romanists, Prelatists, pseudo-Presbyterians, and others who are not satisfied with Scripture as the sole authority for their religious observances. By the Aneityumese, who are innocently, perhaps blissfully ignorant of mediæval and patristic theology, who know nothing on such subjects beyond the statements of the Bible and the teaching of the Shorter Catechism—and that too in an age in which dogma and system in theology are so loudly cried down, while dogma and system in science and everything else are so loudly cried up—by them, the sanctity and honours claimed for this day are wholly unknown. They know of no holy day but the Sabbath. Remember Christmas, to keep it holy, as it is not in the decalogue, so it is not in their calendar. The 25th of December will be remembered by them for some time to come as the date of this earliest hurricane, but for nothing more memorable and for nothing more sacred.

I have been occupying all my spare time with the translation of the Bible. For the last five months I have been tasking myself, special occasions excepted, to about two pages of my Hebrew Bible, or one of my English one, about thirty verses, a day. So that my motto is not *Nihil dies sine versu*, but *Nulla dies sine capite*—it is not a verse, but a chapter a day. I am now at the twentieth chapter of Ezekiel. So that, if spared in life and health till the middle of next month, I hope to see the translation of the Bible into Aneityumese finished. There is, of course, a great amount of revision to be done after that, but still the most formidable part of the work will then be accomplished.

I hope you have secured our successors for this station. You know my views about a vacancy. May the Lord send missionaries according to His own heart. With our very kind regards, and best wishes to you and the committee, I remain, yours very sincerely,
JOHN INGLIS.

JAPAN.

The following recent communications from the American missionaries in Japan will be read with interest, and give occasion for thanksgiving and hope.

Dr. Berry writes:—"I wish you knew, and could enjoy with us, all the encouraging features of the work in this (Shikama) Ken. The response of the people to my questions as to their willingness and ability to provide and support charity hospitals for their own poor, is, as far as I know, unequalled in the history of mission enterprise; and the interest in the study of the Bible at Himeji, Kakagawa, and Adashi (especially the last two places), is as marked as I have seen in Japan, which, as you know from former reports, is saying much. Our labours in this populous and interesting field promise grand results.

Dr. Taylor has been requested to reside at Himeji, by the residents there. He regards the place as a very favourable centre for missionary work. It is about forty-two miles from Kobe, with a fine road between the two places. They tell me they will secure a permit for a clerical missionary to reside there, if he will have a small school for the poor and fatherless children of the place. Mr. Atkinson was thought of as going, but we have some hope of his getting to Kioto."

Mr. Greene wrote from Kobe April 15:—"We are hoping to organize our first church next Sunday. The work has developed wonderfully during