

much, of late, from the island fever. This being the transition period between the dry and rainy seasons, fever, influenza and other diseases are very prevalent among all classes of the population. Since the 1st of October last I have dispensed medicine to no fewer than 250 patients. One of our neighbours, Pita, by name, is suffering from consumption, and seems to be sinking very rapidly. He is an elder and chief, and appeared to us as the most intelligent and earnest Christian here. We always found him obliging and reliable, and exceedingly useful, in many ways. So if he is taken away, his removal will leave a great blank in the Church and community. I often visit him, and always find him thankful for any words of spiritual advice which I may be able to speak to him.

#### CLIMATE AND WORK.

For the last two and a half months or thereabouts, we have had very dry weather. There was scarcely a single shower of rain for six successive weeks. The rivulets were completely dried up, the grass had become so scorched as to have exchanged its green for brown, and the plantations were in such a parched state that the natives began to fear that there might be a famine next year. The weather has now, however, changed, and we are having an abundance of rain, every day. Yesterday, we had a tremendous pour of rain, accompanied by what a European neighbour of ours would call a *young cyclone*. It was a small gale compared with the great hurricane by which we were visited last January; nevertheless, it was strong enough to do a considerable amount of damage to fruit trees, fences, plantations and houses. We had most of our houses prepared for hurricanes, else we would, to-day, very likely be without a roof over our heads. The heat is becoming very oppressive, especially to us northern foreigners, who have not yet become acclimatized. As for the natives, heat seems to be the life of them. The more heat the better they like it. It is the cold that they dread. And so they have much more heart to work in the hot than in the cool season. We missionaries endeavour to finish all the most laborious parts of our work ere the hot season sets in, while it is then that the natives can labour best. I finished my peregrinations inland and to the eastern and western boundaries of our side of the island, two weeks ago; and so have completed my second annual examination of the schools. The natives are engaged in several important works, just now. One party are gathering and burning coral to make lime for the plastering of a school house and church in one of the inner districts, another in thatching the mission store, and the chief's house, which I have rented for the

summer, it being in a healthy place, and affording a sort of *sanatorium* for invalids afflicted with fever and ague, as our little boy now is, and as some more of us may be. Another party are building a cow house for us, while a fourth is engaged in fencing our cow park. This last is the heaviest job of all, as the quantity of wood required is very great, is exceedingly hard to cut, and has to be carried on the men's shoulders, a long distance. But the wood is so durable that if they once make a fence of it they will not be under the necessity of doing so again, for a generation.

#### LORD'S SUPPER.

On the first Sabbath of last month we had the Communion here, when there was an accession of 16 to the membership of the Church. Of these I baptized 14, on profession of their faith; and one man, who had been suspended from church fellowship, for drunkenness, I restored. Having professed repentance for his sin, and submitted to a word of rebuke and exhortation, in the presence of the congregation, I readmitted him to the table of the Lord. All the services in connection with this communion devolved on myself, Mr. Inglis not having found it convenient to leave his own station. We had reason for believing, however, that the Great Master of assemblies was graciously with us. The weather was favourable, the attendance good, the hearers were attentive, and all things done decently and in order. In preaching as well as in other departments of my duty here, I have more comfort now, than ever before. Nevertheless, we have many trials of which you in your position, can have no adequate conception. The prayer of one of the natives on the other side, contains, I think, the truth of the case. It was as follows:—"O Lord, be kind to Thy two missionary servants here. In their own land, they (ministers) lie on beds made of feathers, but, in this land they lie on beds made of all hard things. In their own light land the people are wise and good; and their hearts (the ministers') are joyful and happy; but, in this dark land of ours, the people are foolish and bad, and their hearts (the missionaries') are broken with grief and sorrow. Have pity, O Lord, on Thy servants, and make their hearts strong."

#### LANGUAGE.

I am translating the Book of Ezekiel at present, and have got as far on as Chap. viii. v. 7. Mr. Inglis is at the xxxvth Chap. of Jeremiah. I find this department of missionary work profitable, though somewhat tedious, sometimes. It is profitable as necessitating a minute study of the Scriptures in the original. It is useful also, as giving one an increasing command of the language into which he is translating.