

tain the half of my yams, and if you stop I will give you plenty of food." The young men who had been with the *Dayspring* also urged me to stop and teach the people of Santo; and on learning that I could not stop, they begged me to bring them a missionary. I never saw a more inviting field, or one seemingly more ready to receive a missionary. We passed a pure albino on the way, whose skin seemed healthier than any I have seen before. We also saw an idiot about thirty years of age, and another—a child; they appeared well cared for.—O that they had a missionary to lead them to Jesus. How long will it be ere all those lovely islands are brought under the influence of the Gospel?

June 10th.—Having a steady breeze all night, we got to anchor off Pelia. The *Dayspring* being recognized, a canoe came off with eleven men in it, paddling two abreast; they had also a mast and a good calico sail, which they appeared to know well how to manage. Three of them got on board, and the canoe was sent on shore for the head chief, who had gone from home. About midday we went on shore. The natives were shy of us at first, keeping off, but they soon gained confidence, and a large crowd followed us, behaved very well, were nearly all unarmed, and seemingly pleased to see us. We were informed that though the Mol (great chief) had been sent for, he could not be back till towards evening, and till he came we resolved to walk about, inspect the district, and fix on the most healthy spot available for Mr. Gordon's house. The village or town, for it was almost half a mile long and extending a considerable way inland, was kept very clean, a broom or two standing by each house for sweeping round about outside.—All round the town, here and there, under large sacred trees, there are strong enclosures, with long round stones fastened into the ground as altars, from one to three feet high, and small stones on many of them like the gods used or worshipped on our southern islands, and all covered with the kava oblations which had been poured out on them. In one I counted two rows in a straight line of ten each, and I suppose we saw twenty or thirty of such places. The second canoe which came off to the *Dayspring* had a figure-head standing out, and carved exactly like the human face and head. It was just like the idol's head which a gentleman in Sydney, deeply interested in our mission, kindly gave me out of a collection he had from our islands, on my departure for Britain, and which after my return to the colonies I showed to the children and friends when pleading with them for the permanent support of the *Dayspring*. A boy who spoke English said there were plenty like it on Santo, but kept in secret

by the people who had them. We came past a woman making a large pot of earthenware, which was well shaped and ornamented. They seem to have no kilns, but burn it on oblong stones fastened into the ground, so as to let the fire get below and all round it. The red clay they dry in the sun on fan palm leaves, and then pulverize it with stones, and mix it with water to the consistency of putty, when, with a little water in a half coconut shell, they can then sit down anywhere and make their crockery. I bought many specimens tastefully made. The females do such work. When helping to erect Mr. Gordon's tent, I saw a woman who had boiled fish or something of the kind in one of their pots, come with it and call another woman to her, when they sat down near by to their meal. Each woman had a highly polished pin about two feet long, which she used like a fork to eat the contents of the pot to her taro or yam, while they enjoyed a long conversation over it. Thus they use their crockery for cooking purposes. We also saw an excellent spring of fresh water collected in two wells, out of which the whole district seemed to be supplied. They were planted round with beautiful shrubs with variegated leaves, and a magnificent scarlet flower like a Prince of Wales' Feather growing behind it; and into one a bamboo was inserted at the level of the water, so as to have a constant stream running through it, at which the females were filling their coconut bottles, and scores were quietly waiting their turn. Each woman had a dozen or more of such bottles hung on each end of a piece of wood some four feet long, which she carried on her left shoulder. They forcibly reminded me of descriptions of females drawing water from Jewish wells. The escape-water was carefully carried away in bamboo tubes to irrigate taro and other plantations. I ascended a high hill near the village, from which I hoped to have a good view of the surrounding district; but on reaching the summit we found far higher hills away in the background, yet we had a good view of all around. The country on the north part of the island is bare and parched like, with almost no coconut or other trees; while on the weather or south end it is densely wooded. On the steep sides of those hills they had their taro and yam plantations, which were very large.—They do not throw the earth up for yams, like the Aniwas and Tannese; but they burn the hill-side, and without fencing or further work dig small holes at some three feet apart and insert their seed yams, and supply the vine of each with a reed, around which it grows and is supported. At the highest end of each plantation they have a piece of ground planted with very beautiful variegated-leaved shrubs and scented plants,