

Institute, besides some private schools. In Bressay there are two good schools, and in the majority of the other islands I have reason to believe there is no grievous educational destitution. I have already referred to the hard work some Shetland ministers must undergo. Efforts are being made to lighten their task, and the process of amelioration will no doubt steadily advance. A very good instance of the isolation and unsophisticated manners of the more remote islands came under my own observation. I had occasion to visit one of them in company with a clergyman, who, on landing, intimated his intention of preaching a sermon. Before the service began, one of the most respectable men in the island came to him, and asked him very earnestly to stay over night. My friend replied that he was sorry he could not, at the same time asking the reason of this special request. The man hesitated a good deal at first, but at last said that he had just thought of taking advantage of his visit to get married, as there was no resident minister who could tie the knot, and it might be a long time before they had another clerical visitor. He proposed accordingly to be proclaimed at the service, and married next day. We were amused at this rather striking method of "improving the occasion," but as the man was thoroughly respectable, and had reached the mature age of at least forty, my friend could not urge the impropriety of the step, on the ground of youthful indiscretion. It was certainly irregular to be proclaimed at week-