

but though perhaps longer in her company this time than before, yet he finds her more distant than ever. Time rolls on, and the whole island is busy at work, and the young man and young lady are also busy at their work, and at times he almost forgets her, but when less occupied in cultivating the soil the future looms up in the distance, and once more the memory of his friend sweeps over his mind; and whether it may ever be his happiness to call her his own or not, still he wishes to number her among his friends, and he therefore resolves to send her some token of friendship. He immediately does so, and it is kindly received, which, according to native etiquette in such circumstances, is in itself great encouragement. Thus encouraged, he sends a second present, and it, too, is accepted, but still he only considers it friendship, and is glad to find his presents have been kindly and thankfully received. Now, however, he begins to think seriously about asking this gentle friend to become his wife; and after calmly and thoughtfully weighing the subject, he gravely makes up his mind to "put the question," which will soon decide for or against him.

3rd.—The Engagement and Courtship:

How is he to go about this? He will make known his mind to some very intimate gentleman friend, who will help him? No, that won't do; for if he does not succeed, he will feel humbled, and it will leak out, and his proud spirit cannot brook the idea of being rejected. After some thought, he resolves to write her himself; he does so; but how to get it safely and quietly into her hands puzzles him. He writes, however, and chances it; and now comes a few days of exercise of faith, but soon he is relieved by a reply—she accedes. This is a great point gained, and he is deeply thankful and calm. But, among natives, the maiden's friends have a say in such matters, and the young man must not be too sanguine till their consent is also secured. A few days of anxious suspense, and then his mind is put at rest; her friends give their consent; they say it is "tupene" (good), and the young man draws a long breath of thankfulness and contentment. Anxious to see her before, he is now more anxious than ever, and the accomplishment of this desire and the keeping of the engagement a secret is among his most important plans. Some fine morning, whilst all the other villagers are having their morning sleep, he slips off, and in the stillness of twilight passes through the village, where he expects to meet her, and his hopes are realized. This is the first meeting after their engagement, and it is a happy one, and other meetings equally pleasant follow, until the maiden and her

young suitor becomes less and less bashful, and arrange for and talk of the future with more composure. The young man now commences to build his wigwam and adjust his affairs, for double-blessedness and the maiden leaves the mission premises to make the necessary arrangements for her new home. This awakens suspicion among the friends; and although they are not so heartless as the natives who sought to ruin the character and destroy the happiness and usefulness of the young man to whose engagement we made reference in our last sketch, still they cannot help thinking the ties of friendship are tightening between the young pair, and they have good reason for so thinking. However, the young man still flatters himself folks don't even dream of such a thing, for he thinks he has played his cards pretty quietly and well, but he must arrange for the marriage by *hook* or by *crook*, as he wishes to get his friends to fish for the marriage-feast; and in order to secure their sympathy and assistance, he must first tell them he is about to be married. These now know his engagement, and to whom and some others try to bruise it out.

4th.—The Marriage:

His and her friends now do all they can to facilitate the arrangements for the marriage; and matters progress favourably. A great feast is made by the friends on both sides; and just before they sit down to partake, the missionary performs the marriage ceremony, and after the feast and the friends have "aiheuc vai'd" them (or congratulated them) the young man and his bride proceed to their island home.

H. A. ROBERTSON.

News of the Church.

Presbytery of P. E. Island.

The Presbytery met at Summerside, on the 26th April. Few members were present. A communication was read and received from the Secretary of the H. M. Board, showing the appointment of Rev. Mr. Stirling to labor within the bounds of the Presbytery from the first of May, and also assigning the great scarcity of laborers as the reason others had not been sent. A minute of the Board of Superintendence of the Theological Hall, Haifa, was also read, calling the attention of Presbytery to the nomination of candidates for the vacant chair of Systematic Theology and Church History. On motion, this nomination was deferred till the next meeting in Charlottetown. The Presbytery received the remaining trials for ordination of Mr. Chas.