

and a stone church which are rather exceptive to the general rule. There is much, very much, I fear, out here in Polynesian missions, which is as sounding brass and triukling symbols, and perhaps none so much so as that of placing teachers among the heathen, which has a marvellous echo in the ears of some fear off. The good they do is not the rule—but the exception. I know of nothing more deceptive about our mission work out here than this, and I do not wonder that some are deceived. It is very charming to meet a teacher on one of these islands with a number of natives around him ready to welcome a missionary. Could not land in safety without this. Who will undertake to prove that a missionary is not as safe among heathen as a teacher? A missionary who has been several years out here, says that a white man is as safe as a yellow or black among the heathen. This testimony is true. Who massacred many Erumangans 20 years ago? Tongans and the Samoans a few years after lived in safety on the Island. The Bishop of New Zealand has settled this question by 50 peaceable landings among heathen tribes last year. Now if teachers are not the means of making life more safe, we need not spend time in looking for the good they do by teaching, in the New Hebrides at least, where they are lost in its strange polyglottism. The good they do is therefore mechanical. The Rarotongans have helped missionaries in this way, and in some instances may have benefited souls. But have these men done no evil to the cause of Christ among the heathen? You know that we are frequently reminded—and not too often—that we may be the means of damning souls, and therefore by great watchfulness in prayer over our spirit and taking heed to the doctrine, may save ourselves and them that hear us. But who says much about any of these teachers being the means of damning souls. Poor children, they may do some good, but no harm. I have reason to believe that on this island, but one young mau sustained the christian character before the natives, and his influence for good was passive, for although he knew more of the language than his fellows he only succeeded in giving the natives a few wrong ideas. The natives say that they could not understand any of them, but somehow they have got wrong ideas.

Now I can assure you that I have not yet met one of these men who will be taught anything—not even Mana since his baptism. Would God that the first representatives of Christianity on this island had left better ideas of Christianity! and would that those I have, could see that they are not perfect in knowledge. There are no trials equal to those we have in this way. Twice I have been threatened to be shot down by a murderer, who is now no more, and after I left my boat one day had a bail sent inside and another passed close by, the meaning of which I understood quite well, and have had to tell my wife that she should exercise much faith in God and not be surprised, if I were to meet with a violent death. But all these are bearable trials, not for a moment to be compared with those from the other source. Some of the missionaries at the Kings Mill Group say that foreign native teachers there set themselves above missionaries. I have not found them all thus foolish here, but have had grievous trials with them. Surely it such men as the Aneiteumese can be sent out by half dozens as some kind of representatives of Christianity on these islands, you need not put many searching questions to any young men from among yourselves who propose to go among the heathen; if the former do no harm the latter will surely not. "Behold these christians how they love one another," has a converting influence where ever seen by the hateful and hating heathen, and the opposite has a damning influence. Now, I will not speak of domestic matters among them, but will only state, that the native teachers as they are called, manifest to the heathen an ardent desire to be removed from the society of missionaries where they can be independent chiefs. I have lavished loving kindness on some of them, and tried to persuade them to receive instruction—but they are perfect, and seem determined to remain so. Of seven young men taken from this island to Samoa, one of them Mana learned to read, and as some missionaries thought he might be baptized—he has been baptized to my inexpressible grief. He is taking care of the mission premises at Portinia Bay, but is obviously ignorant of himself. One of ten young men carefully taught in the scriptures for several years, may be selected for school