

*two fives.* If it was necessary, they ran over their toes in the same manner till they came to twenty, when they exclaimed, "my two hands and my two feet," that is, two fives and two fives. All beyond this was doubt, mist, and chaos; as, many, a great many, a great, great many, and similar indefinite expressions. Their nominal adverbs, as once, twice, &c., extended also to five. They have no word for hundred or thousand. We found it would be impossible to teach arithmetic through the medium of the native numerals. Mr Geddie and I, therefore, at once adopted the English names, *one, two, three, &c.* Our first lesson in arithmetic for many a long day, and it is one of our daily lessons still, was to make them repeat the English names. One way of doing this, and which connects a tangible idea in the name, is to count the number of scholars in the school every morning. One of the best scholars is set up; he counts the scholars aloud, and all the rest repeat the numbers after him. As a matter of course, where there was no literature at all before, we introduced the Arabic numeral characters. When we printed Mark, we used the Roman numerals to mark the chapters, but we soon found that it was neither desirable or necessary to trouble the natives with two sets of characters, and we now use nothing but the Arabic numerals. In every branch of Education we have to begin here at the very beginning, but in arithmetic we have to begin at what would be considered in most places far before the beginning. So that when you hear of the natives of this island making some progress in arithmetic, you must not think of proportion or practice, far less of fractions and the cube root, but simply of notation, numeration, and the first four rules. But as some knowledge of the principles of arithmetic are essentially necessary, to communicate anything like correct ideas on almost any subject, and as many parts of the Word of God cannot be understood without it, we feel very desirous that the native mind should be expanded, sharpened and disciplined, by a little knowledge, at least, of the simplest of the exact sciences. I am much in want of a *ball frame* for teaching the simple rules, such as is used in infant schools, also a few hundred copies of the *multiplication table* in its simplest form; also a number of

copies of some simple elementary book on arithmetic, containing a host of examples, with the answers given all in the key, such as Trotter's or Buchanan's. I should like to supply each pupil with a book. This would furnish them with employment at home.

Within the last four years and a-half, since marriage under a Christian form was established on my side of the island, I have married 110 couples; fifty of these couples have been married within the last fifteen months, and twenty-five of them within the last three months. During the first fifteen days of the present year I married sixteen couple. There are at present on my side of the island not more than about thirty unmarried marriageable women, to about 300 unmarried marriageable men. Still the gospel is rapidly improving the social condition of this people. Four years ago the number of males exceeded the number of females by 320, now the difference is only 270, so that Christianity must have saved the lives of fifty females within that time, or about a hundred over the whole Island. Under six years of age the number of boys and girls is equal, female infanticide is arrested. I have married more than twenty widows, who, had heathenism continued, would have all been strangled and cast into the sea with their husbands; and there are eight or ten more widows who are not married who should doubtless have met the same fate. I trust the female members of our Church will think of these facts,—for they are facts, and not conjectures,—the results established by carefully collected and accurately prepared statistics,—and that many a widow's mite will, on this account, be cast into the treasury of the Lord for the extension of his Son's kingdom. If the Lord continue to vouchsafe unto us his blessing, it will be practicable, at no very distant day, for every man to have his own wife, as well as for every woman to have her own husband. We publish the banns only once. This, from the smallness of the island, is sufficient to prevent any improper marriage; especially as I never marry any till the following Friday; and here, as in more enlightened lands, gossip with her hundred tongues, gives full publicity to such events; and they must live in some very remote corner, who do not hear, between the Sabbath and the