

whether she is coming in the "John Williams" or not.

I am happy to say that we are all well. I had rather a severe illness about three months ago, but a trip to Mare quite restored me to health and strength. We enjoyed our visit to our dear friends there very much. Mr Creagh and his dear little motherless boy returned with us and remained two months. I mentioned in a former letter that Mr Creagh lost his wife, a most amiable and devoted woman, only four months after they landed. He feels his loss most deeply. I trust his visit here has been of benefit to him; yet he dreaded very much going back to his desolate home. He is an excellent young man and devoted to his work. We felt very sorry to part with him and his sweet little boy. He is now two years old. He was quite an infant dear child when he lost his mother. Mr Jones and family were well and interested in their work. Mrs Jones looks very delicate, but she enjoys good health and goes through a great deal of work. We left every thing in charge of the natives while we were absent, and we found every thing safe when we returned.—The people from the different villages had made a nice new reed fence all round our premises. The girls had the garden and house in nice order. I said to Mr G. when we were in sight of home, "The girls will not know whether this is the 'Black Dog' (the name of the vessel in which we went to Mare) or not, and will not be prepared," but every thing was as well done as if I had been at home myself. Even the spare bed room was all in readiness for Mr Creagh, and there was a short-cake and nice fried fish for dinner, which were very welcome to us, who had been sea-sick. While we were absent the Bishop of New Zealand visited the island. We were very sorry we did not see him. He has been in England and brought out a nice missionary vessel. Mr Inglis came round while the Bishop was here. Mr Inglis staid all night at our house. The Bishop took tea with him on shore. Mary, my biggest girl, made pancakes, and Mr Inglis says made them very well. The Bishop said they were much better than those made by his steward. I merely mention these things that you may see that our poor natives are capable of being civilized. Indeed there is no intellectual defect about them, but we labor at a great disadvantage in not having school books for them. But we

must get on by degrees. I often wish they understood English, and then how easy it would be to teach them. We should not have to stop to make books. Yet I think the idea which some people entertain of teaching the natives English is absurd. For instance, if we had commenced teaching this people English our work would not have been yet begun.

I have had only eight girls in my Boarding School for sometime, but I intend to take in several very soon. One of the younger ones died about six weeks since. She was I think about nine years old.—We have every reason to hope that she has made a happy exchange. She was always a quiet, docile little thing, and a favourite with all. During her illness she gave us every reason to hope that she was a lamb of the Redeemer's fold. The first time that I mentioned to her my fears that she would not recover she said quite calmly, "Misi, it is just with God. If he thinks fit he will restore me, and if not it is just as he pleases." She said she knew that she was a sinner, but that Jesus died for sinners, and that she felt he died for her. I frequently conversed with her, when she always expressed her wish to die and go to Jesus. During her sleepless nights, for she was distressed with cough, she used to talk with Mary, who sat up almost constantly with her, and say she was not afraid to die, that Jesus died for her, that she wished to leave this world of sin and sorrow and be with Jesus. Her sickness was consumption.—Her mother died a week before her of the same disease. Poor, dear child, I felt much attached to her. She was so easily managed and so gentle. She was a very little thing when she came to live with me.

We received the long looked for boxes in April last, but you will learn from Mr G.'s letters how shamefully they were detained in Melbourne. Their contents were most acceptable, as our poor people were in great need of clothing. Please give my warmest thanks to our kind friends at River John for the clothing, &c., sent by them. My girls request me to express their gratitude to the Young Ladies' Sewing Society (am I right?) for the gingham they so kindly sent for them. They will also please accept my thanks, and I am sure, if they could only see how nice the girls look when all dressed in garments made of it, they would feel very much pleased, and I trust that they and other young friends to the cause