

Christian man visiting these islands. It is indeed a rare pleasure to attend the native services; to see large and flourishing congregations imbued with the spirit of devotion and godly reverence; to hear heart-felt praise to God; to observe their zeal in prayer, and the love of their Bibles. Never was I so much impressed with the power of Divine truth as when I stood in the midst of a native congregation at Ban, of over seven hundred, (the king seated in a dignified manner in an arm-chair, with his large Bible before him; the Queen (the finest specimen as regards flesh and bones of the "human form divine" that I ever saw) in a conspicuous place among the women,) and heard the Gospel preached by a native minister, and the accents of their praise ascending up on high like the voice of many waters. The church is a large native building, capable of holding one thousand persons, and displays great ingenuity in its style of architecture. It is situated within a few yards of the ruins of an old heathen temple where human sacrifices were wont to be offered to their gods previous to their being cooked and eaten. The ovens which were used for this revolting purpose of cooking the victims are still to be seen filled with earth, and quite close to the church. A large tree overhangs them, the trunk of which is covered with notches representing the number cooked. I found it impossible to count them, owing to the irregular order and antiquity of the early entries. I confess that my soul was stirred within me as I quietly surveyed the dark faces of the worshippers in a church raised by their own hands to the honour of the true God, their eyes eagerly resting on the preacher, and the scripture references sought out with facility. This was not a special gathering, for I attended native services in several places, and generally addressed the congregations through the Missionaries, and am thoroughly convinced of the magnitude and reality of the good work of God in Fiji.

Who cannot feel as I did when he reflects on the revolting customs cherished for ages, and the barbarous practices of these once benighted savages who a few years ago, were accustomed to feed upon each others bodies as large fishes do upon small ones. Who cannot but admire the men whose indefatigable labours brought about this change, a change so great and attended with so much difficulty that only great energy and perseverance tempered with wisdom could have effected it.

I was well repaid for my visit to the Richmond Native Institution on the island of Kandavu. The clean and airy school-room, the tidy little houses for the students and the beautiful order in which the grounds are kept, delight the eye of the visitor. When we entered the institution a well de-

fined air of satisfaction gleamed in the faces of forty-five fine-looking young men, and as we proceeded to ascertain their mental attainments, slates and paper were quickly placed before them, and the examination passed off in a manner alike creditable to themselves, and to their energetic teacher. The writing of some especially attracted my attention, it being as good as any I have seen, and the course of study is wisely selected.

This institution is clearly the hope of Fiji, for native agents must be largely employed; therefore a constant number of not less than one hundred should be kept under instruction, and although Mr. Nettleton appears to be a host in himself, an assistant is necessary. Mrs. Nettleton devotes much of her time to the wives of the married students, in securing their minds with useful information and indoor civilization.

The call for help is so great that many of the poor fellows have to leave before their course of study is completed, and essay to teach others ere they are taught themselves. The present number of missionaries should be at least trebled, and even then vast fields for labour will remain unoccupied; for consider a country equal in extent to that of Wales, and populated with about two hundred thousand souls, without roads or conveyances, save the everlasting boat, which is anything but a comfortable means of travelling when it is blowing hard, especially for those who feel that their swimming powers are not to be depended upon.

What I have stated of the success of Mission work in Fiji applies equally to that in the Navigator's group, for few mission fields are blessed with such truly excellent men, of long experience and sound judgment. The Native Seminary at Matua, under the able management of Dr. Turner and his colleague, is a perfect model of its kind. It is the first of the sort I ever saw, and when I consider the beauty of the situation, the harmony which pervades every part, the admirable course of instruction, and the exact method with which everything is carried out, I cannot but compare it favourably with many of our English grammar schools.

It is self-supporting, and contains generally from ninety to one hundred students, and turns out annually on an average, thirty well trained candidates for the ministry, who are allotted their respective spheres of labour, to take charge of day schools and conduct Divine service on Sunday; the missionaries, of course, having the superintendence of the whole. In this way each village has its own teacher, and supports him comfortably.

Things are so well managed that not only do the natives provide for their own educational wants, but they make a large