

other, and do not anticipate the recurrence of former difficulties. A general wish was expressed also by the natives on both sides of the island to renew the practice of former years, and sit down at the same Lord's table as christian brethren—a practice which I regret to say, was discontinued after my departure from the island. If the events to which I now allude remind us of the presence of much latent heathenism among these islanders, they assure us also that the gospel has done much for them; and we ought to thank God that the influence of christianity has been sufficient to triumph over the turbulence of human passion. It would not be surprising indeed, if these people, so recently raised from a state of the lowest barbarism, should at times give way to feelings, which often gain an ascendancy over persons whose christianity and civilization are of a much higher stamp.—The religious and moral elevation of barbarous races is a slow and progressive work, and only attains a high degree of eminence after a succession of ages. It is hard to eradicate old thoughts, feelings and habits, which have become, as it were, a second nature, and we may expect occasional developments of these, even under the most favourable circumstances. May we enjoy abundant outpourings of the Divine Spirit whose agency is omnipotent to subdue the power of sin in the heart, and make men new creatures in Christ Jesus.

ROUTINE.

I will now furnish you with a brief statement of our ordinary labours, and shall begin with Sabbath-day duties. On the morning of this day the church members hold a prayer-meeting to ask God's blessing on the means of his grace; then follow the usual public services, which are conducted much in the same way as at home; and the duties of the day close with Sabbath evening schools at the various little villages, which are attended by persons of all ages. There are religious services also at our most distant out-stations, conducted by ruling elders, and I occasionally spend a Sabbath at one or other of these myself. By these arrangements all who are able to attend the worship of God have it in their power to do so, either at the principal or some of the out-stations. I am engaged at present in explaining the epistles to the seven churches of Asia, and this exercise seems to have excited a more than usual interest among the natives. They see much in the religious history of these primitive churches that will apply to themselves. May God bless his own word, and make it "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." The afternoon of every Wednesday is devoted also to the religious improvement of the natives. After

dinner Mrs. Geddie attends a bible class for the benefit of the females; and I meet with candidates for church membership at the same time. A public prayer meeting is held after these classes are over, which is usually attended by more than 100 persons.

EDUCATION.

The cause of education advances slowly but steadily on the island. There are about 50 schools in operation, which meet daily at sunrise. These schools are taught by natives, and persons of both sexes, and all ages attend them. The exercises occupy about an hour and a half, and they do not materially interfere with the ordinary employments of the people. Reading only is taught at our morning schools, and about three-fourths of the natives can make an intelligible and profitable use of their books. Our aim is to teach all who have the capacity to learn, to read the word of God in their own tongue, and I hope the time is not distant when this will be the case. A large number of schools will probably cease when the adult population are readers, and education will then be confined to the children. There are two schools also of a higher order taught by Mr. Inglis and myself at our respective stations. These schools are attended by natives of promise, and they have hitherto furnished teachers for this and other islands. In addition to reading, the scholars are taught writing, cyphering, geography, Bible history, &c. One of the most important institutions on our island at present is the orphan school. It was formed some years ago, and was first taught by Mrs. Copeland, under whom the children made great progress. It was discontinued some time after we left the island, but we have, since our return, gathered many of the scattered children, and organized the school once more. Mrs. Geddie has taken entire charge of our orphan school, and is assisted in her duties by two native teachers. More than fifty scholars attend, and these depend on us to clothe them; and about one-half of them live on the mission premises, and these we feed also. The natives are very kind and considerate, and bring us large presents of food, otherwise we could not provide for their wants. This mode of supporting them is unsatisfactory and precarious, for at times we have more food than they can use, and just as often less than they need, and as native food is all perishable, none of it can be kept in reserve. We are, therefore, making an effort to get some plantations made for the children, and those who live on our own premises are expected to work at them a few hours every day. The orphans are of all ages, from 14 years downwards, and there are few spots of the earth where they form so large a proportion