

lon's Bay has since been re-echoing their loud lamentations. One of them, who cruelly murdered and ate a Sandwich man near to us last year, is said to be now dying in a dreadful state. Great fear has seized many, while others shun us, and I need not state what some of them would do to us were it not for the restraining grace of God. "God is known by the judgments which he executeth." We had about fifty last Lord's-day from both sides of the island, who seemed more than usual in earnest, as if the Spirit of God were at work, while I was on my favorite subject, "The Great Supper." I do not think all the chiefs of Tanna could now persuade some tribes on the west side of this island that men die who worship Jehovah, for some of them here openly declare that it is the reverse, and that while they worshipped Jehovah it was well with them.

IDOLATRY AS IT WAS AND AS IT IS.

Idolatry had a strong hold of this people twenty-five years ago, when their priests were many and influential and their propitiatory and free-will offerings abundant. At this time an epidemic over-ran the island and swept off a large proportion of the entire population, among whom were many of the sacred men who died suddenly without successors. God thus broke the arm of idolatry or weakened it here before this people saw a missionary. The chiefs now present the first ripe fruits to their deified fathers in the sacred groves, and in time of war supplicate their assistance and presence with a small stone which is carefully concealed and made fast to the handle of the spear or club which is destined to strike down the enemy. The young men give food from their gardens when their chiefs demand it for the gods, and thus far participate in idolatry where they have some knowledge of its sinfulness. Their forefathers seem to have been originally worshippers of the sun and moon. The images of the latter are their protection-gods, and they cleave to these with great firmness of faith. They state that Nobu, or their deified fathers, gave them these images, which they hold fast as a blessed legacy. This is the last species of idolatry which will be given up or cast away from Erromanga. I saw one of these carried out a few days ago and placed by bananas prepared for a chief in Dillon's Bay—thus acknowledging the supposed source of the blessing of fruit. I believe a few old men pray to the sun in time of drought.

STATE OF SCHOOLS.

It is obvious that schools cannot prosper in any country efficiently, although they may numerically; without good teachers; and for this end every island in this group, if not every missionary, must have its or his own normal school ere schools can be raised above a very low state. "Infant School," however, is a more appropriate term to designate our early schools among such an ignorant people. When we came here we hoped that the ten young men who had been to the Samoan and New Zealand normal schools would readily come to us for instruction, and for their benefit I did intend to establish some kind of a normal school; but in these we have been quite disappointed with *one* exception. Of about twenty young men whom I have induced at different times to come to school about ten last year have made some progress in reading, &c., and of these one or two will make efficient teachers, if I am not mistaken. Of these I could of course find a half-dozen of incapables whom I might now send to teach, who would no doubt do some good and much injury to the cause. Our first great object must ever be the general preaching of the gospel in school and out of school in all places, for without this all our work must drive like Pharaoh's chariot wheels.

Mrs. Gordon has been very much tried in her department of missionary work among the females. When she began to succeed among them with a small class two years ago, the chief of Dillon's Bay came and broke it up and took the women away with him. She again succeeded in forming a class on the south side of the river, and the destruction of fruit trees, &c., by foreigners and other circumstances scattered these from her. She was again succeeding with a goodly number of them, who came to her several days in the week till the war broke out last October and other causes of opposition to the gospel arose. Five are now with her again daily, and the number will soon increase if they are not again persecuted and compelled to leave her.