

sadly wanting in energy for the successful management of this school. I was obliged therefore, to take charge of it myself instead of merely visiting it occasionally like the morning schools referred to.

#### SCHOOL VISITATION.

On the 25th of September last I set out to visit several schools, taking with me like Douglas, "a chosen servant to conduct my steps." This was a teacher who had been on Tanna with the late Mr. Johnston. I had also two lads from the *nninin*, one of whom has since turned out a faithful, but the other is steady as a rock and a most indefatigable worker.

In the course of an hour and a half I reached head quarters, or Umej's, where Mr. and Mrs. Matheson spent some time in order to recruit health. Here I remained two days and visited nine schools. When I visited with Mr. Copeland I accompanied him in a boat, but the wind was unfavorable on this occasion, and I prepared to go on horseback. Besides Mr. Copeland was at home on the sea, while I rather resemble the lady who said, "Oh, how I do love the sea when I am on the land." As we passed several schools on our way, we were saluted occasionally with the usual term while dogs were barking at Bobbie or me, or at both together, and children had their eyes regaled with a sight not very common since Mr. Geddie's visits. When within a quarter of a mile of the destination, Bobbie who had been walking most of the way on account of the rough stones, was glad of a change for a little relief; so without any direction or permission from me off he galloped like an Arab steed and landed me safely at head-quarters.

When I arrived at Umij, (pronounced as if spelled Umaiitch) I received an ovation. I was met by young and old—teacher and scholar—husband and wife—chief and dependant—who gave me a hearty welcome, and entertained me with fish, fowl, and taro sufficient for three men for two days.

Sept. 26.—Started at 7 a. m. and reached Anikaro at 20 minutes to 9. I had to dismount six times on account of steep hills. Bobbie helped himself by the way, as the grass was long and wet with dew.

Ferns were growing in great variety and abundance and the cotton crop looked remarkably well. I also observed some fine plantations of taro and sugar-cane. We crossed a fine river twice, but in vain have I sought and enquired for the navigable river referred to in Mr. Gill's "Gems from the Coral Islands." At Anikaro, Kaka the chief welcomed us. He is the most intelligent and respected chief on this side of the island, and his influence is felt and acknowledged widely. He is very steady and wise. He was married to Faigeto one of our best maids, on the 17th of May. Six of our maids have thus been taken from us and we have to train new ones. I spent four hours at this school, for it was a rendezvous for the children of two neighboring schools. I was pleased to see the neat white school-house, and the clean, intelligent appearance of the children. Out of 100, I did not observe one act improperly. —I heard no unfavorable accounts of any adults. This was owing chiefly to the influence and example of Kaka. I saw his father's tomb so neat, and substantial, and white as snow. I received the names of 9 adults and 8 children for baptism. I distributed several Almanacs and Hymn books. On coming away there was a rush of women and children to shake hands, and I held out both hands, but gained nothing by it, for those who got the left hand came for the right one also. All were very neat, clean, and well dressed here. I examined two more schools in the afternoon and three on the following day, and was well pleased with the proficiency of the children as a whole, though some are not so promising as one would expect from their size and age. I often found the best readers amongst the little boys and girls. Many of the adults can scarcely read at all. I resumed my visitation on the following week and finished all in three weeks. I took the boat on one occasion as I could not get the horse there on account of the rocks, and besides had packages too heavy to carry such a distance. At every school there were presents awaiting me. I generally commended those who were deserving, and tried to stir up the indolent.