

morning is increasing, but fluctuates; some days we have thirty persons, and others only ten present. Three young men now attend regularly, and after worship I meet with them and the children for religious instruction; and three or four chiefs often come to worship in the afternoon, and are willing to be instructed. At the close of all our meetings, I question them individually, going round all present, to see who has understood best, and can tell most of what has been said to them. I cannot as formerly go to conduct worship among the villages on Sabbath, as it causes our enemies to attempt our lives, exciting the people, and otherwise does injury.

*School.*—Almost every day I have opportunities of instructing our natives regarding good and evil, and they often take a lesson in the alphabet before leaving. I promised a shirt to any one who would know all the letters first, and a chief who was a terror to our people has of late become very friendly, attends worship regularly on Sabbath, and in two weeks mastered the A B C, and rejoiced in carrying off the prize, which was an ornamented shirt just received in the Loanhead Box. A few days ago he came with his wife and children, and sat patiently and taught them the letters, and a day or so after he came with the two chiefs who led the party that attempted to kill me on the 18th of July; and when about the half of the inhabitants were assembled for that purpose, and he had constrained them to sit down till he taught them the letters, he said "O is like the moon, T has got two arms, E has got three clubs, F has got two clubs, L is like a man's foot, Q is the very talk of the dove," and so on with all the others; and added, "Try and remember these things, and you will soon know all the letters. My little child who cannot walk knows their names. They are not hard to learn but soft, soft, very. We will soon learn to read if we try it with our hearts; we are dark and bad, but it will do us good." Our few friends have much to bear from the hatred of Miaki and our enemies. They have driven away the chief's son who had come to stay with me, but he still attends worship regularly on Sabbath; and now I cherish the delightful hope, that I will soon be able to form a regular day school in Port Resolution. Mr. Matheson has a few attending school daily.

*Translation of Scriptures.*—Mr. Matheson is translating John, and I was translating Genesis and Matthew, but now I am devoting all my time to the New Testament, but as yet I cannot get any native to help me. I am also drawing out a vocabulary of the language in English and Tanesé.

*Sorcery.*—Our natives are firm believers in witchcraft. Every sickness or calamity that befalls them is ascribed to some person exercising the Nahak, and if they can fix on that person, he is waylaid and killed, so that it is the cause of constant bloodshed all over this island, and was formerly the cause of their wars. A short time ago, Naswina, a great inland chief, died, and his people would not bury him, but as usual prepared to kill some persons for him, and a large new battle-axe was bought from a trading vessel for the purpose; but, by God's blessing, I got him buried, and all their plans frustrated, though several large meetings were held to gain their object. I hope this signal victory will help to break down this murderous superstition, and increase our friends. His friends soon after came and assured me that no person would be killed. Yesterday Fitapo, the colleague of Navka, our highest harbour chief, died, and they came to borrow a spade to bury him at once.

*Famine.*—Last year was one of very great abundance on Tana, but this year our whole natives are actually living on the bark and leaves of trees. Their coconuts are done, and almost everything that can be eaten, and consequently we have much sickness and death at present. And though this is the season for bread-fruit, the trees are almost fruitless, except a few in my garden, which are bearing well, and this is their second crop, though bread-fruit was found nowhere else (the first was nearly all stolen). Our natives are much astonished at it. Yesterday a great number of natives came to see our house, and a great chief, a sacred man, said, "Our conduct is bad, our professions are false. I say I make this famine. Others say they are making the bread-fruit, the bananas, and the yams grow. Where is it? Who is making Missi's bread-fruit and bananas grow? Oh, let us all entreat Missi and Abraham to pray to Jehovah, to make our fruits grow also, or else we will all soon die with hunger."