be men in some things, but they are not yet, certainly, in understanding.

### METHODS OF INSTRUCTION.

There are, in particular, two methods of instruction which we find it useful to employ here; viz., the parabolical and catechetical. By the former, in humble imitation of the Great Teacher Himself, we endeavour to illustrate the unknown by what is well known to the natives themselves. Thus, as George Herbert says, "We wash and cleanse things of ordinary use that they may serve for lights of heavenly truths." As for catechizing we practise it much. Socrates held that the seeds of all truth lay in every body, and that by questions well ordered, Philosophy would be found in the lowest ranks of That position will not hold in society. Christianity, because it contains truths supernatural. Nevertheless, there can be no doubt but the Socratic mode of instruction may be so wielded by the christian teacher, as to become in his hands, a most potent instrument in arresting his hearer's attention, awakening in them inquiry, leading to salutary self-knowledge, turning to good account the partial and inadequate conceptions of truth already in their possession, and so, by the blessing of God, opening their hearts effectually to the saving reception of the "incorruptible seed of the word." Our difficulties arising from the present

## INTERMEDIATE STATE OF THE NATIVES,

between that of barbarians and civilized people are chiefly of a secular nature. They have very absurd ideas about the value of money and the rate of wages we should give them for their services. We have been asked, for example, to pay them £5 per day. One man said to me not long ago, as I was reasoning with him on the subject of wages, "It was right enough that we should work for nothing for the missionary long ago, when we knew so little the difference between light and darkness; but now that we have become so enlightened, we think we ought to be well paid for all we do for him."

I have made these observations about the people with whom we have to deal, not from any teeling of bitterness towards them, or disposition to complain, or despond; but simply, that you may know the kind of mortals we have to work among, and that the sympathics and prayers of the church, in our behalt, may be intelligent.

## NOT DISCOURAGED.

I may state that, on the whole, we feel more encouraged, in our labours, now, that we did at any former period, since our settlement here. The natives are evidently placing more confidence in us than they did, at first. Our dictum is becoming wonderfully influential among them. They consult me respecting the management of all their most important affairs, social and political as well as ecclesiastical and religious: and the chiefs sometimes say to me when I ask them what they consider as the most prudent measures to adopt, "Lup aick, nai Idjinm aick," i.e., "Just as you please; thou art the Head."

We have been occasionally gratified, too, by what, we would fain hope, were signs of spiritual life among them; as, for example, the application of a few of them to me, once and again, for expositions of Scripture, and a growing sense, apparently, on the part of some, of the importance of practical Christianity. You have probably heard of

#### WAIHIT.

In the days of heathenism he was a sacred man, but one of the first, on the island, who professed acceptance of the Gospel. He is one who has become amazingly friendly towards us, and zealous for the prosperity of Jehovah's work. As a token of his friendship, he sometimes presents us with a fine large fish, saying, "According to the conduct of us Aneityumese, in the olden time and until now, this is the kind of love-gift we offer to those to whom our hearts are sweet indeed." We know no native here who seems to be so carnest as he in advocating the claims of the poor perishing heathen of the adjacent isles. These are some of the "small things which we would beware of despising, and for which we would "thank God and take courage."

# THE STATISTICS

of our station, for the past year, so far as I have been able to gather, are as follows:

T 144	
Whole population	718
Males.	449
Females	
Average attendance of worshippers. on	
Sabbath	300
	300
Average attendance of worshippers, on	•
Wednesday	
Preaching stations	5
School districts	22
Teachers	. 55
Communicants	306
Accessions to the membership of the Ch.	24
Candidates for admission to the Lord's	
	28
table.	
Adults baptized	18
Children baptized	14
Children baptized Suspended from Church privileges	11
on ac-	
count of drunkenness	7
And, on account of adultery	4
on account of against	•