

them to hold fast the word of God, which alone can save their souls. As some in whose death we had comfort and hope were not members of the Church, we fondly hope that there are many instances of true piety even where the external profession of it has not been made.

STATE OF THE POPULATION.

The population of the island is now in a great measure christian. In the district occupied by Mr Inglis the heathen are now reduced to 200 and they number about 50 in my own. They are scattered throughout the island without combination or influence, and if they had the disposition, they have not the power to oppose the progress of divine truth. The overthrow of heathenism has placed under our charge many hundred souls who look to us for instruction. We are now doing what we can for their religious and moral improvement, and we are much encouraged in our work. Our labours, I have reason to believe, are appreciated by many, and the gospel seems to be valued for the blessings it confers. By the blessing of God on the means of grace some are forsaking their sins and turning to the Lord, and others are growing in the knowledge of divine things.

STATE OF CHURCH.

The public ordinances of religion are well attended on the Sabbath day. The usual attendance at my station is from 600 to 700 persons, and on special occasions it amounts to double that number. Meetings are also held at four of my most distant out-stations on the Sabbath day. I send two Church members to each station to read the Scriptures, pray and address those who attend. By this arrangement most of the natives have it in their power to meet and serve God on his own day. Our little Church now numbers eighty-three members, and their general conduct is such as to warrant the hope that their profession of religion is sincere. Several candidates for admission into the Church also attend a weekly class, some of whom will most probably be received before our next communion. The attendance on the means of grace at Mr Inglis' station is much the same as at my own, but the members of his Church, which is of more recent formation than mine, are not so numerous.

DEACONS ORDAINED.

You will learn I trust with satisfaction that we have recently ordained deacons in our infant Church. Five men were

elected by the church members and solemnly set apart to this office. Their names are Simiona, Karaheth, Toppe, Navalak and Neiken. The selection is the best that could have been made and meets with my cordial approbation.— Among the occasions for this class of office-bearers in the Church I may mention the care of widows. In the days of heathenism widows, as you are aware, were strangled, and the property of the deceased husband was usually claimed by his friends. The gospel has abolished the practise of strangulation, but as yet the claim of widows to the property of their husbands is scarcely recognized, so that some guardianship of them is needful. This guardianship however is not usually of long duration, for the disproportion between the sexes on this island is so great that if a woman continues long a widow the fault is her own. I feel thankful that we have now a few trustworthy men to attend to the temporalities of the Church, as this will relieve me from some anxiety and trouble. Mr Inglis expects also to ordain deacons in his district at no distant period. I mentioned in a former letter that we had in prospect the appointment of ruling elders, but after deliberation Mr Inglis and I resolved to delay until more of God's word is in the hands of the natives. In every thing connected with the organization of a christian Church among a new and untried race caution is desirable. It is better to do a little in the right direction than to attempt too much and be compelled to retrace our steps.

STATE OF EDUCATION.

On the subject of education I have not much to report. Our schools, I am glad to say, are well attended. The entire christian population are our scholars. Persons of all ages, from young children to men and women of seventy years old, may be seen going to school every morning at sunrise. In my district there are twenty-three schools in operation, supplied by twenty-six teachers, who, with four exceptions, are married men. A large proportion of those who attend the schools can read. The valuable case of writing paper, slates, &c., which you sent has given a great impulse to the cause of education in the schools under my charge. In addition to the common schools in operation throughout the island, there is an afternoon class conducted by Mrs Geddie