

gives it a beautiful appearance from a distance. We are in the midst of garden work. Our *olonaka* (brook gardens) which we plant now, about two months before the rains come. From these brook gardens we hope—if the locusts will allow it—to have some early vegetables. All our boys, even down to the little fellows of seven and eight years, have their own little “*onaka*,” and after work and school are over you will see the whole *onaka* land dotted with boys of all sizes, and some girls, too (either at their own or their boys' garden) busy at work; it is a pretty sight; all seem so happy. Indeed, they are so anxious to be at this work that we have had a few cases of—shall I say it—truant playing.

For some time past we have heard rumors that men were catching women at their fields or on the roads, so that of late they have been afraid to go to their field work without some of the men with them. A wife of one of the chiefs and her child was taken; the child was sold to a trader; the mother, they have not been able to trace. The mother of one of our boys was caught and nearly strangled, but escaped.

One night, about three weeks ago, the girls were in as usual for prayers; started to go to their own houses; had not gone a dozen of yards when they all came back screaming, saying they had seen two men who had attempted to catch them. I took the lamp and went out, went half way up with them, and waited while they ran to their houses. Later in the evening the men had gone to their houses, but the girls would not open the doors. Next night all was quiet, but four of the young men slept near, two in the girls' school-house, and two at the other side of the girls' houses. As you know, it is only unmarried girls who sleep on our side of the stream. All the boys' houses are north of Mr. Currie's house on the opposite side. The following night, after prayers, I took the lantern and went with the girls, but met one of the boys on the watch. About an hour afterwards we heard the most heart-rending calls for the boys. They rushed up, saw the men, and shot twice. They think one man was shot, but not badly. These shots aroused the whole village, and all the boys came over in a very short space of time. They set up a search for the men, but it was so dark one could not see their hand before them. All was quiet again until about midnight we heard one knocking at a door quite near to our house. No one was in this house, the girls, all feeling afraid, had gone into two houses; they then opened the door of another, but it was empty. There was no sleep for us that night. Next morning we told the girls to come and sleep in our kitchen; we feel they are safe, and they like it, although the men were given such a hot reception, we do not think they will return. The girls are