

ing vessel as before and only receive two mails in a year.

The soil of Efate is very rich, and all the tropical fruits that have been introduced flourish. Pine apples, custard apples, oranges, limes, lemons, mangoes, guavas, papua apples, etc., thrive well.

It is hoped that in the near future the banana trade will be a profitable one. At present it is one of the chief industries of the Fiji Islands. Two steamers bring from forty thousand to fifty bunches monthly to Sydney. Large quantities are also shipped to New Zealand and Melbourne. As our island is 600 miles nearer Sydney, bananas could be taken up in a better condition from the New Hebrides than from Fiji.

The Efatese, in physique, compare favorably with the natives of any other island of the group. Especially is this the case with the natives of Fila and Mali, two small islands in Pango Bay on the S. W. side of Efate, who speak a language altogether different from that spoken on the main island. Fortunately, however, they have now constant intercourse with the natives on the mainland, and understand the Efatese language so that we are not obliged to prepare separate books for them.

Their huts are oblong in shape, with a long, low entrance at one side. The frame is fastened together with creeping vines or the bark of trees, and thatched with long grass. In the shore villages the floor of the huts and a space in front of the entrance is covered with coral, bleached white in the sun, and broken fine and worn smooth by the action of the waves. This gives the hut a clean, neat appearance. Over the coral they spread mats, made either from the leaf of the cocoanut or of the pandanus, leaving a small space near the entrance for their oven.

Their food consists chiefly of yams, tars, and bananas, which they either roast on the embers, or grate down into puddings on large leaves, over which they squeeze out the grated kernel of the cocoanut. It is then wrapped up, laid on heated stones in the oven, and covered up with leaves and earth. Food cooked in this way is generally tender.

As you enter the hut the first object to attract your attention is a long bundle of mats fastened up to the roof. These are for trade and constitute a large part of a native's property. You may also see a box or two, especially if the owner of the hut has been away in Queensland, and as a rule in the Christian villages, you may see saucepans, basins, tubs and buckets.

War and cannibalism, for which they were once notorious, are now things of the past. With the exception of two or three villages they have all renounced heathenism, and are under Christian instruction.

Teachers have been trained and settled at the various villages, by whom the Sabbath services are conducted, also the weekly prayer-meeting and daily school. A number more have been trained and sent out to assist missionaries in carrying on the work on heathen islands.

A substantial lime church, 58 feet x 26 feet, has been built at the head station, the frame is of colonial wood, and was nearly all paid for by the natives themselves, as well as the seats, and the work was all performed gratis.

The New Testament, a Primer, and the Peep o' Day have been translated into their language, and they have defrayed the cost of printing.

Since coming to Sydney, I have translated a Scripture History, which, along with a new edition of our Hymn Book, containing upwards of eighty hymns, is now in the printer's hands. The cost of these books will be about \$500, but they have money enough on hand from the sale of arrowroot to meet this.

I intended to write some more about the progress of the work, but shall not be able to do so at present.

Yours sincerely,

J. W. MACKENZIE.

Of the eighteen million girls of the school-going age, in India, only one in every sixty-one is receiving education of any kind. The other sixty are left to grow up in ignorance, heathenism and superstition.