

comfort above many of our neighbours. While in the school we learned to make lace, and are able to carry it on in our houses; and when we consider that it was through your kindness we obtained the knowledge of it, we feel very grateful to you.

So through your kindness we have not only improved in our temporal condition, but have been taught to seek for an inheritance incorruptible undefiled, and which fadeth not away. How can we repay so much kindness? He that said, "Whosoever shall give to drink, unto one of these little ones, a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, shall in no wise lose his reward," will, we sincerely trust, abundantly reward you at the last great day. We are unacquainted with many of your names, but through the letter that we have received from Mrs. May, of Maldon, we not only know her name, but we have been edified by the good advice contained in her affectionate epistle, for which we are greatly indebted to her.

Dear benefactresses, by the grace of God, our dear friends, Mr. and Mrs. Mault, who labour constantly for the benefit our souls and bodies, are well: we not only praise of God for this blessing, but also pray, that he may prolong their lives and the lives of all who desire our good, for many years of usefulness.

Mr. Hands, of Bellary, who is here on his way to England, spoke to us of the great interest you take in our welfare, and encouraged us to persevere to the end in the Christian course. We have the pleasure of sending this by him.

Begging the continuance of your support to the school, that it may continue to flourish, and that our children and others may enjoy the same benefits that we have received.

With our most dutiful respects,

We remain, dear ladies,

Respectfully yours, on behalf of the rest,
NALLAMOOTHO.

Wife of the Reaver, E. Balm.

PARIMBAMOOTHO,

Wife of J. H. Palmer.

FANNY FREEWILL.

Nagercoil, Dec. 16th, 1840.

THE PITCAIRN ISLANDERS.

The very interesting account of this singular community, which is inserted below, has been furnished by our devoted and enterprising brother, the Rev. Thomas Heath, who visited the island towards the close of last year, while on his return in the *Camden*, from Sydney to the Samoas.

Appearance and character of the island.

Nov. 14th.—In the afternoon of this day, Pitcairn's Island, to our great joy, came in sight. We had been within 100 miles of it for several days with a wind directly against us.

Nov. 10.—Found ourselves close to shore at day light this morning. The island is only about five miles in circuit. It is rocky, and a large portion of the higher mountains is barren; the highest rises about 2,500 feet above the level of the sea. There is no good entrance nor anchorage. One entrance is on the west side, where there is a sandy beach, but from thence to the settlement, the road is difficult. The other is a small cove on the north side, called "Bounty Cove," because there the *Bounty* was anchored until burnt by the mutineers. This is more difficult as an entrance, but is only about a mile from the village, and the road is tolerable.

Social condition of the islanders.

Soon after sun rise a canoe came off, and was shortly followed by four or five more; and we soon had on board several of the leading men of the place, and several young ones. Among them were George Adams, son of the celebrated John Adams, Arthur Quintall, magistrate for the present year, and his half brother, Edward Quintall.

On hearing that we were come on purpose to visit them, and to bring them presents from the Governor and clergy, and other friends at Sydney their pleasure and gratitude were beyond expression.

When we landed we received a hearty welcome from a party on the beach, who conducted us to the village, where we were met by Mr. George Nobbs, who has for some time acted as teacher, and also by Mr. Buffet and Mr. Evans, two other Englishmen, who have for some time been residing in the island.

We found thirteen neatly-built wooden houses, thatched with the pandanus leaf, beside some out-buildings. The cottages are neat and comfortable, furnished with tables, benches, chairs, cupboards, &c. There are now 108 people.

Their garden plots are very clean and neat, and they grow a considerable quantity of yams and sweet potatoes, and some taro. They have also coconuts, bread fruit, and bananas, sugar-cane, and other vegetable productions. Their animals consist of goats, pigs, dogs, cats, and fowls in abundance.

After calling at two or three other houses, we visited Mr. Arthur Quintall, the magistrate. From him and others we obtained the history of the mutiny on board the *Bounty*, the settlement of the mutineers, and the principal subsequent events.

We then dined with the magistrate. The table was very comfortably set out, and two or three joints of "a kid," with yams, &c., afforded us a good dinner.

Attention to religion.

Between two and three o'clock the people were called together, by sound of trumpet, for public worship. Nearly the whole population were there. The chapel is a neat wooden building, which serves also for a school. Mr. Nobbs is accustomed to read to them, twice on the Sabbath, the Church of England prayers. I therefore requested him to do so to-day. He complied, and read them well; and the people repeated the responses very reverently, and sung from Dr. Watt's hymns. I then addressed them on the "great salvation." They heard with fixed attention, and many of them with tears.

Arthur Quintall, Capt. Morgan, and Mr. Nobbs, also respectively addressed the people; and I then walked round and questioned several of the people on the texts, and some of the chief Scripture facts and doctrines, and most of them gave ready and suitable answers.

In the afternoon we walked out to see a part of the Island containing John Adams's grave, and other noted spots, and to collect a few curiosities. We also called on two old Tahitian women, the only survivors of the party who came in the *Bounty*. One of them remembers both Cook and Wallis.

State of religion and education.

We supped and slept at Mr. Nobbs's, but it was 12 o'clock before we retired to rest; for five or six of the natives kept us in conversation on the most interesting of all questions, "What they must do to be saved." It was a rare and delightful thing, in this part of the world, to be pressed with anxious