

man who was once a cruel, degraded and remorseless savage, sitting at the feet of the Lord, "clothed, and in his right mind."

#### CHARACTER OF CHURCH MEMBERS.

The general conduct of our church members is such as to warrant the hope that their profession of religion is sincere. The terms of admission are quite as high as at home. There must be a competent knowledge of the leading truths of the Bible, and an exemplary life. We expect sacrifices also which are not considered necessary at home, but which our peculiar circumstances seem to require. No person would be continued in the church who indulged in the use of tobacco or *kava*, the only intoxicating drink on these islands. To use the former of these articles, even if it were not injurious, would expose them to intercourse with our own countrymen, who are seeking their ruin, and as the latter is destructive to soul and body, we have no hesitation in enjoining on the natives to "touch not, taste not and handle not." It is understood moreover that every church member makes such an unserved consecration of himself to the Saviour, as to be ready to engage in his work, on this or neighbouring islands, at the call of duty. We endeavour to make the primitive churches our model as much as possible on these islands. But while I write thus, let me guard you against impressions too favorable. It is quite probable that converts from heathenism would not stand so well in seasons of trial, as christians at home, and cases of falling into sin may be reasonably expected to be more common among them. How different are their circumstances from those of persons brought up in christian lands, who have had religious training, superior advantages for the attainment of religious knowledge, and been taught to regard with abhorrence crimes with which the heathen have been familiar from their earliest years. But God's grace is all sufficient, and the Redeemer's blood "cleanseth from all sin." Many, we have good reason to hope, have already given up their hearts to Christ, and others will yet submit to him. The Saviour's crown will be adorned with jewels gathered from this and other isles of the sea.

#### RULING ELDERS.

Our labours on this island are much aided by a good staff of ruling elders. Some of them are very faithful and devoted men, and exemplary in the duties of their office. Each elder has the oversight of a certain number of members whom he is expected to visit, encourage, admonish and exhort as the case may be. Our elders also go out occasionally on the Sabbath day, and conduct the worship of God at distant places. Their addresses are usually founded on some portion of Scripture which they have heard

their missionaries explain, and they often add illustrations of their own, which adapt them to the minds of their countrymen, and make them very impressive. We feel impelled to use every agency which God has placed within our reach for scattering the seed of divine truth, and conveying the bread of life to those who are perishing for lack of knowledge.

#### EDUCATION.

The cause of education advances slowly in the right direction. Every little village on the island has its teacher and school, which is attended by parents and children. The time of meeting is sunrise, and an hour and a half is spent in giving and receiving instruction, and then the natives disperse, and go to their plantations or fishing. Reading only is taught in our morning schools. The time of meeting may appear unseasonable, but we must accommodate ourselves to the circumstances of those who attend, most of whom are adults. A large proportion of the people are now able to read the word of God in their own tongue.

At each of the stations there is an afternoon class attended by young men and women, many of them married. Our teachers for this and the neighbouring islands are usually chosen from this class. In addition to reading they are taught writing, arithmetic, geography, &c. Mrs. Geddie teaches the class at my station with the help of native assistants.

#### MRS. JOHNSTON'S SCHOOL.

The school under Mrs. Johnston's care also holds an important place among the means employed for the improvement of the natives. It is attended by children from different parts of the district, who are the hopes of the island. Many of them are orphans, and unless taken care of by the mission, must grow up to be useless, if not injurious members of society. As Mrs. Johnston intends to forward a report of her school to you, I will not anticipate what she has to say. She seems eminently qualified for the department of missionary labour which she has chosen. The school will, I have no doubt, be a great blessing to the island. Our only regret is that a similar institution is not in operation at the other station. Mrs. Johnston, I am glad to say, enjoys excellent health.

#### MISSIONARY MEETINGS.

Our annual missionary meetings took place in the months of August and September. The whole amount collected at the two stations was £8 15s. 6d. sterling, and 3000 lbs. arrow-root. There would have been more of the latter, only a great quantity was destroyed by the hurricane and floods of March last. We expect to ship a part of it for Melbourne and the remainder of it to New Zealand, where it is likely to sell for