

of lepers in the settlement at the time of my visit was 723, of whom 440 were males and 283 females. Besides these, there were 60 "kokuas," the wives or husbands of lepers in the settlement, but who showed no signs of the disease themselves. Among the former were seven white people, who, different from the natives, fully realized their position, and looked upon death as a blessing and the only relief to their sufferings and misery. The natives appeared quite contented and happy, and as many of them had horses, they amused themselves by racing up and down from one settlement to the other. On our first night, while sitting on Dr. Neilson's verandah, we were serenaded by the band of the colony. The band consisted of a large and small drum, and three "penny whistles," the music of which one could scarcely distinguish from that supplied by so many fifes. They played very well, having belonged to the "Royal band" previous to their banishment. The two drum boys were each minus their four left fingers, and two of the "whistle boys" were wanting two and three fingers respectively of the right hand. On the second night we were serenaded by a band of choristers, but the cracked and husky voices of its diseased members were neither gratifying nor harmonious to the ear. The carpenter of the colony had his left hand entirely fingerless, but the heads of the metacarpal bones were enlarged, so that on bringing together that of the thumb and index finger a small opening was left, into which he would introduce, and so keep in position, the nail he wished to drive. It was highly interesting to note some of the ingenious expedients many of the fingerless unfortunates were driven to, but space will not permit me to give any more instances. The rations of food were ample and of good quality, being supplied by the Board of Health, and served out by Mr. Clayton Straune, the deputy superintendent, himself a leper. Each leper received weekly 21 lbs. *paioi*, the native food (the *arum esculentum* baked and slightly pounded), and from 4 to 6 lbs. of fresh beef. Other necessities of life the lepers or their friends had to pay for, and could be obtained at cost price at a store in the settlement, kept by the Board of Health. When a fresh batch of exiles come to the settlement, they are cast upon