

ing, &c. We spent one week on the island of Bau, called the metropolis of Figi, where the greatest chief resides; and where there are now stationed one Wesleyan Missionary and a Teacher.

This island but a mile in circumference, contains a population of fifteen hundred; most of whom are now under Christian instruction. The mission work has met with great success on this island. It is only about seven years since a missionary has been permitted to labour among them, and it is said that cannibalism prevailed to a greater extent on this, and the adjacent stations, than on any other part of the group. The Chief, who had been the greatest cannibal, was among the first to embrace christianity; and as generally is the case his influence tended to dispose many others to think well of the new religion, so that now the chapel and school are quite well attended. This chapel will seat about a thousand persons. One would be astonished to see the amount of labour expended on it. The rafters and posts are beautifully ornamented with dyed roots of various colours, and plaited fibres, wound round in different figures. There is said to be over a million yards of this fine plait used in ornamenting—and there is the tying cords beside—of which no small amount is required, seeing there is not a nail to be found in the whole building.

We also spent a few hours in the school. At the beating of a drum, for there was no bell, at 8 o'clock in the morning over a hundred scholars assembled. After the Teacher had gone in and taken his stand they followed in a most orderly manner, seating themselves on the mats; men, women, and children together, —many of them with but very little clothing. After the devotional exercises; in which they engaged with ail solemnity, they were arranged into different classes, over which five Native assistant teachers presided. The English teacher superintending the whole. We were delighted with the order in which the whole was conducted; and pleased to learn that his method of teaching was as near as could be expected, under the many inconveniences which he laboured, *the proper Normal System*. You may know that I would not have less confidence in his teaching when he told me that he was a graduate from a training institution in Scotland. The scholars seemed quite interested in their work—appeared really delighted in singing and marching; and when it came to Physical exercises, they entered into them with their *whole heart*. I never saw these exercises performed with more order. The natives on all the Islands we have visited have been very kind to us, some of them expressed their kindness by bringing us presents of oranges, lemons, mats, baskets, &c. The report of a vessel at anchor having a Missionary on board was soon spread. They wished us to remain on their island, and learning from their missionary that we were for the New Hebrides insisted that we would be *much better* with them, but seemed glad that another missionary was sent to the heathen. A native was heard one morning at family worship praying that the language of that people would be made easy to us, and that we would be good teachers to the heathen. How simple yet most touching these words of the poor native. He had nothing more to give, but these words were uttered with deep earnestness.

ANEITEUM, July.

We arrived here on 25th June. I felt on reaching here quite like coming home after a long journey among strangers. We are spending a few pleasant days with Mr and Mrs. Geddie. We found them quite well though somewhat lonely after the separation from their dear children; but they seem quite absorbed in their work—endeavouring to render all other things subservient to its interest.

Mrs. Geddie's time is much occupied in teaching. In the forenoon she has the girls sewing; after dinner she spends an hour with the writing class; immediately after this the afternoon class meets. Those attending this class are the more advanced, chiefly men and women. These are making very good progress in reading, writing and arithmetic.

Mr. and Mrs. Matheson were here last week. I have not seen Mrs. Gordon yet; but I have heard her most highly spoken of. She is much beloved by all the missionaries' wives.

I love the natives of this place; they are affectionate to each other, and always ready and glad to show any kindness to the missionaries. Mrs G. has the girls