

River, 12 miles South of Dillon's Bay and one of the hardest spots to work in this Island. In February another teacher died of Scrofula, and his place was taken by a young man from my class only in the end of last month.

The murderer of George Gordon asked for a teacher about two months ago, Ususo my teacher at Dillon's Bay and the second son of *Koioi* who murdered John Williams took a young man from my class, whom I appointed, to this man's district. I could not go myself as I had arranged to go next day to the East side of the Island with the teacher referred to above. *Ukovele* (Geo. Gordon's murderer) gave the ground for the church and school house. The name of the district is Rampunumpwat, but you need not read it aloud. A young chief near South River has just asked for a teacher and I have arranged with another of my scholars to go as soon as the vessel passes. Six weeks ago an elder who has been a faithful teacher and sincere Christian for ten years, died and I settled a teacher and his wife there when I crossed the Island with the young man from my class. Then only last week an old teacher had to be dismissed for sin and another teacher went out of his mind, or his mind went out of him if he ever had any, and I sent and had him brought here. However he started alone the other morning during school for his own village 20 miles from Dillon's Bay. But we are going to try and get him back here where his life will be safe.

So you see brethren it is no easy matter to manage my coach carefully, and sometimes bold driving is needed. When the two teachers leave next week in the *Day-spring* for *Tongoua* we will fill their places, and then we shall just have 34 teachers actually at work. I had hoped to have 36 this year, but I cannot do more in the mean time than I have done, for every man in my teacher's class in whom I have any confidence has been sent out, and those still attending my class may be off in some slave ship any day! But nothing that any native may do any day would surprise me much, however much it would grieve me. Not that they are positively so bad but that they lack principle and they are such children and so volatile.

HOW THE LABOR VESSELS HINDER THE WORK.

I heard when I returned from the East side three weeks ago that our herd and another young man engaged house-building

for us, ran off at day-light with a native decoy to a labor vessel with whose captain they had arranged to sail just at day break, and he to send his boat in for them around a point forming the North arm of this Bay. Next night seven or eight young men, six of them members of the church, resolved they would go in the first labor vessel that should call at Dillon's Bay and they cut down a tree to witness their oath that they would go without fail. And they will too. If spared at all to come back their heads will be like so many blocks, you cannot get an idea hammered into them, youth is the only time they can learn and that will be spent in the Queensland plantations.

Just when my class becomes interesting and begins to shoot up into manhood, off they go. It is very discouraging, for I must begin another class of young boys away back almost at A. B. C. and slowly drag them up to read, write, add figures, get some knowledge of the Bible, etc. Still we cannot give up *our* work or neglect *our* duty to them, and to *our* church, and especially *our* duty to God. So we just try to cheer up and begin again sowing beside all waters, knowing good is being done all the while and that though we have sown in tears we have also been permitted to reap in joy.

THE BRIGHT SIDE.

May 4th.

But I must try and give you something now of the other side, for there is a bright side. And we are thankful for it.

WHAT THEY HAVE DONE FOR THE WORK.

The Christian natives took great care of the mission, buildings, and fences, at both the East and West Stations during our furlough in Canada, and added a large native made church on the West side for the sacrament, and made two kilns of lime. They built a new piece of stone wall or dyke, enclosing the martyr's church at one side, i. e. facing the sea, and they put on and removed the storm rigging of all our buildings each year, (the storm rigging consists of poles lashed over the roofs of our houses to prevent the hurricanes blowing off roof and thatching), and they visited regularly all the out-stations, attended well (for natives) to the sick, and appointed two or three new teachers to districts where the teachers had died. They painted the church, *our* own house, every door and window, and