

“The Samoans seem, as would appear from what has been said, keenly alive to the advantages of education. Every village without exception has its resident pastor or ‘faife’au.’ He is at once minister and teacher, teaching regularly the village school throughout the school year, besides attending to his ministerial duties. In like manner, each village is provided with its church—serving the purpose of schoolhouse as well, built of concrete.”—*October Missionary Herald*.

Gifts for Neemuch.

FROM MISS JESSIE DUNCAN.

Neemuch, June 30, 1896.

We need a good deal to satisfy the wants of our little folks, which number about two hundred now. We have six girls' schools with an average of about thirty children each, so there are quite two hundred (200) names on the roll.

Dolls, of course, are especially prized by the children, and next to them pieces of cloth. I would prefer to have almost nothing sent out but these articles, except perhaps a few toys for my Chamar boys (thirty in number), who do not receive dolls. If a child does not receive one or the other of the above mentioned articles, she is usually so disappointed that she does not return to school. We try to teach the children that they must be grateful for the smallest gift even, which is given to them, but as yet they have not reached the high standard of being able to rejoice over the joys of others, if they have not received something which pleases them.

We have had a somewhat discouraging time in Neemuch lately, but now I am looking forward with great hope to the fall and winter work. The Lord goes before to make the crooked places straight and the rough places plain. He has been leading us through the valley of humiliation that we may learn “the closer walk” with Him, or as one has said “that He may keep us weak enough to use us, and low enough to bless o’erflowingly, and empty enough for God the Spirit’s filling.” Several of our women have been found to have acted indiscreetly, with suspicions of something worse, and so are not allowed to work. The others, however, are undertaking increased work very cheerfully, and we are all in hopes that the sifting of the Christians will be a means of blessing instead of a hindrance to the work.