

A MICRONESIAN CUSTOM.

BY MRS. M. D. ROGERS OF THE W. B. M. I.

A curious custom have the Micronesian Islanders. When a person is yet a child a hole is made in the lobe, or soft part of the ear, and something is wedged into it to keep the hole from closing as it heals. From time to time this substance is removed and a larger and still larger quantity of material is used, until by the time a youth grows to manhood his ears have been stretched and stretched until they hang far down upon his shoulders.

We should not consider this very ornamental, but a Micronesian thinks himself finely dressed when he has a large ring of polished shell fitted into each of his poor, disfigured ears.

These rings are sometimes used for the purpose of carrying articles which a native cannot conveniently take in his hands.

For instance, Captain Reay says he once saw a man who was sufficiently civilized to wear one garment made of cloth. It was a cotton shirt. The native wished to swim from one point of land to another, but the precious shirt must not be wet. After thinking a few moments he

seemed to have decided the matter. He took off the shirt, rolled it carefully together and tucked it neatly in his ear-ring! Then he swam across, holding his head high above water, and not a whit the worse for the voyage was the shirt. When these natives learn from our missionaries that this cruel and hideous

disfigurement of their bodies is not pleasing to their Heavenly Father, they do the best they can to remedy the wrong. They no longer decorate the large loop of flesh, but hang it up over the upper part of the ear!

A PROMISE.

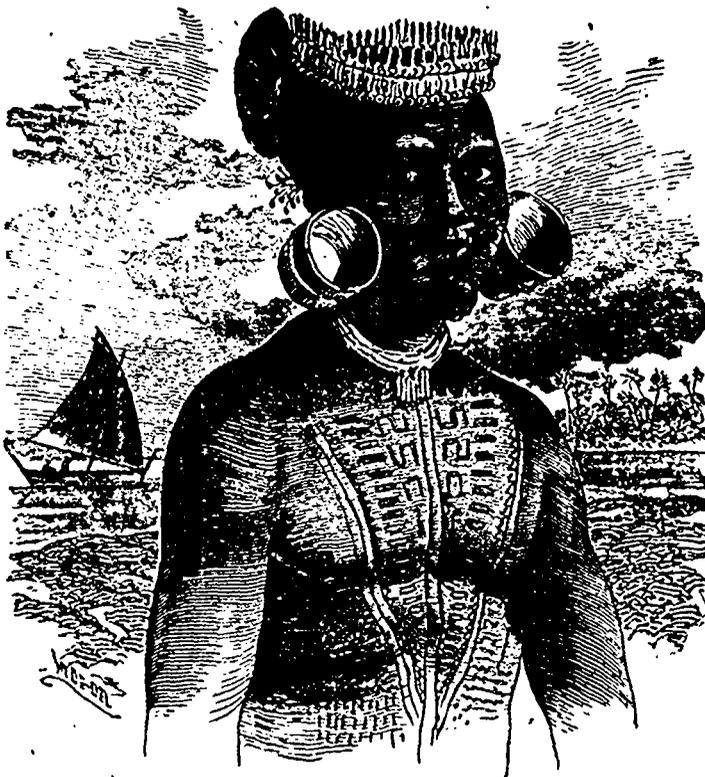
Nellie had a habit of saying "Promise me." One day she had asked Mamma if she might have a birthday party. When

mamma said "yes," Nellie said, "Please promise me, mamma." "Why, Nellie," said mamma, "yes is a promise."

"I know it," said Nellie, "but when you say 'I promise, it makes me feel so sure.'"

Do any of our little folks know a promise of Jesus which begins "Verily?" Ask some one what that means, and see how many promises you can find which begin in this way.

Never forget that a promise is a very solemn thing, and when you make one be sure that you keep it.



A MARSHALL ISLANDER.