

landed on the island, and kept it up for more than two years and a half; but the excitement against the cause and myself at last became so great, during the early part of last year, that I could not venture far from home without exposing myself to insult, perhaps to danger; and now my duties on the Sabbath day have become so onerous at home that I find it difficult to go abroad. But I rejoice to state that the practice has been resumed by the natives. I usually send out a few of the men in whom I have most confidence to adjacent villages, for the purpose of conversation and prayer with their heathen countrymen. God appears to have sanctioned their labors to some extent, and numbers have through their instrumentality, been brought to give up their superstitions and submit to christian instruction. Those who go abroad give me an account of their visits on their return, and it is interesting to hear their simple and sometimes affecting narratives of their intercourse with the heathen. They have in some instances met with ill-treatment and been exposed to danger, but they are still anxious to labor for the salvation of their countrymen.

Our Friday meeting goes on well, and is attended by about 50 members. It comes very near what you would call a prayer meeting in Nova Scotia. The natives call it a meeting for searching or looking into their hearts. In addition to devotional exercises, we have two or three addresses. These are most commonly based on some passage of scripture from which the natives have heard me preach, and are often very impressive. I have felt my own heart warmed on many occasions while listening to them.

We have two week day schools in operation at this station, the one for females and the other for males. The former is under Mrs Geddic's Superintendence, and she is assisted by the Rarotongian widow whom I brought from Tanna year before last, and also by two native young women who have been living with us for more than two years. This is our largest and most advanced school and numbers about 40 scholars. My own school contains about 30 scholars, some of them old men. Nohant, the chief, is one of my scholars. After much effort he has mastered his alphabet, and is now reading words of one syllable. He says that his mind is very dark, but that he wishes to learn. Many in both schools can read well and a few

are able to write. I am sorry to say that we have scarcely any children in our schools under ten years of age, though there is a sufficient number within reach to form a large school. They are so irregular and fugitive in their habits that they cannot yet be brought to submit to the slight restraints of the school, and their parents have no control over them.

Our school meets every morning at sun rise. As soon as the day breaks two boys go through the settlement in different directions with the *nitai ah laing*, i. e. the thing to call people. It is just a piece of hard wood neatly dug out something in the shape of a trough, and when struck with a round hard stick it gives out a sound which may be heard at some distance. It is however a poor substitute for a bell, and when the wood is wet it is almost useless. If persons friendly to the cause only knew what an acquisition a bell would be to the station they would, I think, make an effort to send one. But to return to our schools. With the aid of our assistants we get through before breakfast. Our most advanced scholars meet again at 10 o'clock a. m. for writing.

We are at a loss for school materials at present. A supply of slates and pencils which I brought from Samoa is now very low. My paper and pens are done, and my scholars are now writing on their slates. Could you appropriate a small sum for the purchase of school materials to be sent on without delay? In the mean time I must send to Sydney for some paper and pens for present use.

Of those who attend our schools about 14 reside with us. It seems desirable that those who are most likely to become the instructors of their own countrymen, should be separated, as much as possible, from intercourse with their heathen relatives and friends. It is now between two and three years since we attempted something in the shape of a mission boarding school. Our inability to aid our pupils to any extent with food, has in a measure defeated our object, but I hope we will yet succeed. Most of the scholars who reside with us have begun to make plantations of their own, and will in time be independent of their friends for food, and of us also.

The present account of our schools is more encouraging than I have hitherto been able to give. We labored amidst many discouragements, for three long years, to form schools and have succeeded