

people are always rejoiced to see us and do all they can to make us comfortable.

We have not heard from home for a long time, and we are now looking anxiously for letters. It is very trying to be so long without hearing from those we love.

Our beloved Lucy left us for England last October in the "John Williams."—We have had trials in this dark land, but the greatest trial is parting with our beloved children. It is a trial that time does not lessen, but rather increases.—Our beloved Charlotte, although very comfortable and affectionately watched over, yet feels very keenly her separation from us. Our little girl and boy (Elizabeth Keir and John Williams) are very lovely children. John W. is a very strong healthy boy. Elizabeth is more delicate. She is very subject to fever and ague. She is just now recovering from a severe cold.

This is the fall of the year with us and the most unhealthy for the natives, yet, when they apply in time, their diseases are easily removed. We have a great many applicants for tea during the sickly time. Many of them imagine that it is a sure remedy for their sickness.—Our old chief is fond of a cup of tea, and often drops in at meal times. The other day he sent us a large pig, and, when we asked him what he wanted for it, he said, "nothing;" he said it was an expression of his gratitude for the tea he so often got from us. The people often make us presents of food. Many of them, when they make a new house, send us a portion of the food collected on the occasion. When we visit the out-stations we always get a present of taro, bananas, and sometimes a pig. This is in addition to the cooked food which they always prepare for us and the natives who accompany us. The taro is the staff of life here. It is an excellent vegetable; we are very fond of it, and never miss potatoes. It is quite unlike any vegetable we have at home. We have it always cooked in the native fashion, by laying it on hot stones over which fresh leaves have been spread.—The taro is then covered with fresh leaves and over them dry leaves (used in previous cooking), and earth over all. In this way it is thoroughly cooked, and better than in any other way. The natives of all the South Sea Islands prepare their food in this manner.

The breadfruit grows on this island

and is very plentiful in some seasons, but it does not last many weeks. There are a great variety of bananas. The Chinese, which is a superior kind, has been lately introduced. Bananas are raised with very little trouble. The natives will soon have more than they can consume. We will advise them to dry and export the dried fruit, as is done at Rarotonga, Samoa, &c.

I have never tasted any fruit in the South Seas to be compared with what we have at home. I would prefer a good apple to all the pine apples, custard apples, bananas, &c., in these islands; and there is no fruit that can at all be compared to our strawberries. We have lemons also, and a number of young orange trees which are not yet bearing fruit. We can raise maize, beans, cabbage, carrots, &c.; but we cannot always get the seed of the smaller vegetables to ripen.

We have three cows which are no expense, as they have abundance of grass all the year round. We keep goats too, as they supply us with milk when the cows are dry, and, as we have no fresh beef or mutton, we relish a kid sometimes. We have poultry also, *i. e.*, fowls and turkeys. This long account of goats, cows, &c., may not be very interesting to you, but it will give you some idea of how we live in this part of the world.

I can scarcely realize that we have been so long from home, yet were I going home I would no doubt see many changes. Many of our aged friends have gone the way of all the earth, and our young friends have grown up so that we would scarcely recognize them. Time passes very rapidly out here. We have so much to attend to that we never think it long.

It is a long time since I wrote this letter, hoping to see an opportunity to send it to you, but none has occurred until the present, and it is so unexpected that we shall not have time to send many letters by it. I am happy to say we are all well, and very busy in our work, teaching, &c. Mr Geddie joins me in affectionate regards to yourself, Mr McC. and family, and also to our many kind friends in Brackley Point. With many wishes for your welfare and happiness,

I am, my dear friend,

Your's affectionately,

C. L. GEDDIE.