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# Children's Record.

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**They are** Mrs Mackenzie of the New Wretched Hebrides, says that visiting the native villages some distance from our home, we are saddened by the sight of so much sickness and misery. Everybody seems to nurse up their ailments until the missionary comes and then, the sick and suffering, the sad and sorrowing, crowd in each one expecting to get the needed help, until one almost wishes that miracles were not a thing of the past. I did feel sad when they bought a poor young girl with paralyzed limbs.

**Native** They seemed very grateful to **gratitude** us for our visit, writes Mrs Mackenzie from Efate. When we prepared to return home nearly the whole village accompanied us to the boat. Down the winding bush path we went in Indian file, my guide frequently warning me of low hanging branches lest my head should suffer. Some of the women carried baskets of food on their head, which they had prepared for the boats crew. And when they came to those low branches, they bent the knees, keeping the body perfectly erect and with a graceful movement, slid under the branch and out on the other side without putting a finger on the basket. Could you do that boys?

At the boat landing there lay two hogs, tied, ready to be slung into the boat. The larger one was a present from the villagers, a token of their gratitude for our visit. The smaller one was a present from the bridegroom, who was married on this visit. We will call it the marriage fee.

**School** Miss Jameison, one of our missionaries in Neemuch, India, gives instances of some of the difficulties they meet with in trying to teach the children. One difficulty is that the mothers sometimes complain if the children do not learn as quickly as they expect. One amusing instance is the following. "A very clever little girl began attending school lately who learned the difficult alphabet in an unusually short time. When she had been just ten days at school her mother sent a message to say, "My daughter is not getting on at all. She has been asked to read from a book and could not. Miss Sahib must do all the teaching herself or come to the house and teach my girl."

Another difficulty is that the girls leave the school so young to get married. "Every girl in this school who was in the highest-class has been lately removed by the lamentable child marriage system, but I am thankful to say we can follow most of them into the Zenanas and teach them there. Girls are taken from us while so young that with a rare exception they never can get beyond the most elementary branches." She says:

"Our chief anxiety should be to begin from the day the children enter school to instil the principles of Christianity into their minds, and continue to do so until they are no longer under our care. Then they will be anxious to continue the Scripture lesson in their homes, and we can expect the fulfilment of the promise, "my word shall not return into me void."