

I have on the roll upwards of one hundred and thirty names, but the attendance has not been so good as might have been expected out of so many. I can only say, that as much as in me lay, I strove to increase it. The smallness of the attendance I can account for in two ways, both of which affect the school materially. *First*, The great demand there now is, and has been for the last two years, for palm-oil. This causes all the grown-up people, as well as many of the young men and children, to be sent to the various country markets to buy it up; and frequently the people remain there for many months, sending down the oil they purchase at each market. The consequence of the men's being away is, that the children left in town are set to do the work which the men ought to have done, and this makes them stay away from school altogether, or makes their attendance at best very irregular, in fact, so irregular, that it is very grievous. *Second*, The Calabar gentlemen themselves seem to throw every obstacle in the way of their children's coming to school, especially their slave children. They are beginning to find out that there is more than they thought in the Word of God—that the children learn at school that there is a higher Being than themselves to fear, and consequently that many bad things the children are told to do they will not do, they will rather take a flogging. I will mention a case which happened only lately. One of the school-boys was flogged on the Sabbath day by his master, who had just come from hearing the Word of God in the church, and the reason was, he would not beat fufu on the Lord's day. The fufu requires great labour in the preparation, and the boy was told it was bad to make it on the Sabbath.

But, notwithstanding these difficulties, the school has been advancing and will advance, in spite of them. We had an examination in November last. The Rev. Messrs. Waddell, Goldie, and Edgerley, etc., etc., were present, the classes were put through their lessons, sung some songs, and there was a tolerably good show of knitting, in the shape of caps, jackets, etc.

There is also something to encourage in the desire manifested, by not a few, to attend school, and for the sake of learning. In some or all schools at home, the children rejoice greatly when they get a holiday they did not expect: here I have seen the case altered, and instead of rejoicing, many were sorry.

Stealing is nearly done in school, only two cases came under my notice during the past year. And likewise for telling falsehoods and swearing, I have seldom to punish. On the whole, I must confess that, when I call to mind the days when I was at school, and the pranks that used to be played there, the children here cause me far less trouble than we used to give our teachers.

The school here is a promising seminary. In it much good seed may be sown, which if it appear not now, may appear long after this, and bring forth much fruit to the praise and glory of God; well does it need and deserve the prayers of all God's people, so that it may prosper in spite of all the hinderances of Satan.

DUKE TOWN.

The Rev. W. Anderson says—The day school has suffered considerably from the events and fluctuations of the year. For some months, at the commencement of the year, when Mr. Sutherland went to take temporary charge of Old Town, and since September, when the committee appointed him to the superintendence of that station, the school has been under my charge. During the latter period I have been assisted, for some time, by Mrs. Goldie, for some time by Miss Johnstone, and for some time by Miss Barty. I confess, however, that I have not been able to conduct the school so efficiently as I could have wished. I had two slight attacks of fever before the burning of the mission-house, and a severe attack afterwards, which left me very feeble. I have not yet regained the vigour of body which is so useful in—indeed, *essential* to—the comfortable and successful management of a school. There have been in all about 90 children at school during the year. The average attendance while I have had it, has been 50.

We have had four marriages at the station, but none of these parties are, properly speaking, natives. Three of the parties married were persons who had come from Sierra Leone.

At the commencement of the year I resolved, if possible, to translate the Psalms and Proverbs. Unexpected calamities and sickness have prevented me from carrying my purpose fully into effect; but I have got 100 of the Psalms and 26 chapters