

with a person who had been brought up in a christian land. His only son, Lathela, is now *Natimaved* or high chief, having several petty chiefs under him. He is a very steady young man, unassuming yet firm, and likely to have a great deal of influence. He is very anxious to rise. He is a good writer and is learning to cipher very fast. At his own earnest request we are teaching him English. He understands a great many sentences already. If spared I hope he will prove a blessing to his people who are very fond of him. He and his wife Mary, are like my own children, they have been so long with us. Charlotte will tell you about them and their fine little boy Selwyn. Lathela is very anxious to go to Britain and Nova Scotia, but it would be a great risk to take a native to such a cold climate.

Our little Helen McDonald is a very healthy child, lively and a great pet with us all. She will miss the dear children, especially Charlotte, of whom she is very fond.

You will I suppose be surprised at Charlotte's going home again. We did not intend when she came out that she should have returned so soon, but after much deliberation we have come to the conclusion that it is much better for the three to go together. We feel that she has gained much useful knowledge during her stay with us. She has also enjoyed the privilege of being with us two years after her long absence, during which she had almost forgotten us, and of course recollected nothing of the children. Now, when they join dear Lucy and are all together, they will often speak of us and their little sister.

We hear very favourable accounts from our dear Lucy in England. An officer on board H. M. S. Iris, a son of Admiral Sir Fairfax Moresby, a real kind hearted young man, with whom we became intimate, while the ship was here, insisted upon having Lucy's address, that he might write to his parents about her. They sent for her and she spent her Christmas holidays with them. Sir Fairfax wrote to us and sent us her likeness. He says, "We shall be sorry to part with her, and we thank our son Fortescue for introducing her to us." Lucy says the Admiral and Lady Moresby were *so kind* to her. We have found friends in all the men of war that have visited this Island. H. M. S. Cordelia was here three weeks not long since. We always enjoy the visit of a Man of war, there are so many real gentlemen on board.

When Charlotte becomes quite at home among you, she will tell you just how we live out in this part of the world; and you will find that we have not become quite *barbarous*, but endeavour to live as civilized as possible. Our great trial, as I have before mentioned, is parting with our beloved children. Missionaries who have not this trial to pass through know little what trial and sacrifice are, except for the first year or so. Please write often. Much love to your dear children.

March 28th, 1860.

I am thankful to say we are all well, and able to attend to our duties. We feel very lonely here without our beloved children. I often think that I cannot bear to be thus separated from them, but when I think of the poor natives, I feel that I can endure the trial for their sakes. Our house looks *so empty*. Three leaving together have made such a blank. Yet I have the comfort of knowing that my beloved ones are going among friends who will treat them with kindness and affection. It is a great trial for them to be torn away so young, from parents and home. I trust they will never forget their *South Sea home*, nor the poor natives who are so attached to them, and who never cease to remember them in their prayers.

We feel the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Inglis also. They had been so long associated with us, and we have been so happy together.

Our new church is very nearly finished. It is a very large and fine building. There has been a great amount of labour bestowed upon it, from first to last. Our people deserve great credit for their work. I keep my school in our old church, as the room which we formerly occupied was too small. As soon as the new church is finished, we will have the old one fitted up for a schoolroom. The young people who attend my afternoon school are getting on very well, in writing, reading, and ciphering. I am thankful to say we are labouring with encourage-