

in the days of heathenism. The awful practice of strangling women has also greatly lessened their number.

VISIT OF H. M. S. HERALD.

H. M. S. *Herald* visited us last week. We were much pleased to see our kind friend, Captain Denham, again. He and her officers appeared much pleased to visit us again; and say that this is the prettiest island they have seen, and the best behaved people, and by far the prettiest mission station. They all admired our place very much, and say they have seen nothing like it. I am sure any missionary might have as good a place with very little trouble. We have not spent much time on it. The ground which they admire so much, I laid out in the evenings, when wearied with teaching all day; the coral which covers the walk was carried by my smallest girls, whom I cannot confine too much to sewing; the grass on the plots grows naturally; the flowers which adorn the borders were collected by my girls in their rambles after school hours. With the exception of some rose bushes and a few other flowers given me by the French *priests*, my ornamental shrubs are all native.

Mr McGillivray, the naturalist on board the *Herald*, is a son of the late celebrated Dr McGillivray, Professor of Natural History in Marischal College, Aberdeen, and a second cousin of my own. He is a very clever man, and devoted to his duties. Mr Wilson, the artist, has taken photographic likenesses of us, which we will probably send home.

Were all vessels visiting these islands such as the *Herald*, or rather, were all captains such men as Captain Denham, what an amount of good might be done to the missionary cause. Captain Denham is a man who will gain the respect of all who are acquainted with him. He came on shore every afternoon, took tea and spent the evening with us. We felt sorry to bid him good bye, as it is doubtful whether we shall see him here again. Mr G will inform the Board of his kindness in going out of his way to land a teacher and supplies for us at Fotuna.— We shall always think of him with feelings of deep gratitude.

LETTER FROM NATIVE GIRL.

Yesterday, one of my girls brought me a letter which she had written to Lucy. I thought that perhaps the translation would interest you. I therefore copy it, though it loses much in the translation.

I had nothing to do with the composition, etc.

*My dear sister Lucy,—*

This is my word of love to you. Very great has been my grief since you left, on account of your good conduct to us. My sister, I think of you every day, and have not forgotten you because of your good conduct.

This is my word to you; Thawia has left us, she is married to Luka. My former words to you are true, i. e., that I would not leave Mamma. My sisters Charlotte and Lucy; great is my love to you two, great is my thanks on account of your papa and mamma, great is the compassion of God to us in sending his servants to look after us, and turn us from the wicked path, and teach us the good word, and point out to us bad conduct and good conduct. Yes, my sisters, they have forsaken you two for love to us. It is difficult for you two to see your papa and mamma on this earth; yet if we are strong for God's word and trust in Jesus, we shall all meet and love together in his kingdom.

Do you know, my friend Lucy, that Captain Denham's son is dead. Thawia, Ema, Roudi, Natugnai, etc., send their love to you.

THE WORDS OF MARY.

I wish you could read the native language. You would be highly pleased with the composition, etc. Several of our boys and girls write very neatly. I hope to send you a specimen of their writing some time, but we are always so hurried writing that we have not time to do so. All our boys and girls wished to write to Lucy; but I told them that one must write at a time, all send their love and *wish their names written*, that she may know how much they love her.

C. L. GEDDIE.

THE JOHN WILLIAMS

Has been recently repaired and fitted for her outward voyage at an expense of £3000 stg. She is the children's vessel, and we publish with pleasure the following appeal by Rev C. Hardie to the children of England. We expected a similar address to the young people of Nova Scotia from the Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, but as it has not come to hand, we recommend Mr Hardie's to their consideration. The "John Williams" carried the children of our missionary, Charlotte and Luc.