

near death; do you by no means throw away the word of God. This is my wish, that you teach the children the word of God, and that one of them may become my substitute in my work as a Missionary amongst the dark heathen." Puna vahine heartily consented to this, and kept it well in her heart. Then, in the year 1840, when I was sixteen years old, Puna vahine made known to me what my father had said about one of his children becoming a Missionary, and acting as his substitute amongst the heathen.

"That word went to my heart, and I asked her particularly what the nature of the work of God was which my father did.

"Then she made clearly known to me the good works which he did up to the day when his spirit took its departure to heaven, the blessed place.

"Upon hearing of the good works in which he had been engaged, and his happy death, my heart became changed, and I reflected on that part of the word of God, 'Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.'

"On account of all these things, my desire to join the church became very great. I had before, for some time, been assisting to teach the children in a little school, in the place where I lived; so, after some months, I was admitted into the church, and sent to teach the children at a place in Tahiti called Taravao.

"While there, Mr. Howe made known to me another good thing, which had just then commenced—that is, the training of young men as Missionaries. My heart at once gave its consent to that work; and I went before the Missionaries, and made known my desire about it, and I was admitted into the institution in the year 1841. After that, the great evil—the arrival of the French—came upon Tahiti, in the year 1844, and Mr. Howe went to Britain; but I still kept these things in my mind, and was engaged in teaching school during this time.

"When Mr. Howe returned to Tahiti, the institution was commenced again, and I was re-admitted.

"My heart is now glad that this work has again been established by means of your prayers to God, our strong helper; and now I wrestle in prayer to God, that I may not be entangled with the evil of this life, but that I may please him, and also you, who have assisted me. I am now engaged in studying, and my studies are agreeable to me and I attend to them with strength and perseverance.

"My thoughts are constantly occupied about the work, day and night; and my heart is sometimes sorrowful, because wisdom is not quickly obtained, by which the work may be well done. This is what I am now studying—arithmetic, geography, ancient history, the English language, lessons on the Word of God, sermons for the Sabbath, and other things.

"From seven in the morning to three in the afternoon we receive instruction, and then we read till eight in the evening, and we conclude with family prayer.

"Four days in the week are thus spent; and during two days, the work of the school is exchanged for other works, necessary for the body, such as procuring food, and other things required by the family. That is what I am now doing. May salvation be yours!

"I am Arato,—that is my old name.—but John Cuff is my new name."

This young man has now completed his course of study under Mr. Howe, and has become a minister of the gospel amongst his countrymen.

You see that his desire to be a minister, and to walk in the steps of his pious father, began when he was young, and, although he had many hindrances on account of the war between the natives and the French, by prayer and perseverance his desire has been gratified; and we pray he may prove a faithful laborer in the vineyard of the Lord.  
—*Juvenile Missionary Magazine.*