A few days were spent in conversation, when the work on the vessel was renewed. Mr P engaged in making the sails. Nearly all his time was spent at Mahu except the sabbaths; but now that we knew where he was and what he was doing, we felt quite reconciled to do without him.

[The Busbys and Tompkins]

There was much talk about the propriety of Mr Busby's leaving. He had been sent here to preach the gospel but finding great difficulty in acquiring the language, and his health being somewhat impaired, he resolved on leaving the mission; he is a man who has for years been subject to what is called the hypochondria; at which times he appears to lose his faith in almost every thing; when not under that influence he is counted a great comic of hilarity and jokes, full of zeal for the cause of truth, affectionate and warm hearted to his friends, some natural talent, with a neglected education: he is poorly calculated to brook the ills of life; having an ambition very much above his abilities, he claims more compassion than he receives; as do all melancholy persons; because they are so few who feel for sorrows they themselves are not subjected to.

March the 1st every day finds me at the old Fare bur raa [meeting house; house of prayer] teaching the natives, and my own children, studying Tahiti, writing, &c. Mrs Tomkins and her two little daughters I have instructed from the first week of our landing here. Sister T is an excellent woman; frank generous ambitious, light hearted and full of mirth, a good natural understanding but entirely without education; a great desire to learn, but a memory so treacherous that it is in vain for her to endeavour to attain to any considerable share of knowledge; what a misfortune to be
neglected in childhood! many parents do not consider it as they should. Mr T tho a little better educated being able to read some, is however inferior to her in judgment: he has many good traits of character of which he appears to be very sensible; exceedingly conceited he assumes an air of importance; willing to confer favors he wishes those who share his liberality to feel and acknowledge their obligations to him; and being very much given to satire, it is difficult for one always to maintain that respect for him which he requires and being exceedingly variable in his disposition he is at one time ready to oblige, while at another he would be decidedly opposed to it, under the same circumstances. his conversation is often very oppressive, as his jokes are principally founded on facts, and sarcasm comes in for a large share where there is the least occasion for it: his expressions often wounded my feelings, because I had placed confidence in him and expected more perfection in him than I had reason to; and there is where I have received a thousand wounds when a little cautiousness in giving persons power over me might have prevented it; but it takes a person’s whole life to learn human nature, and at last he must be comparatively ignorant. The less we have to do with the world, the more peace we have; and a secluded situation with a competency, a few choice friends to partake of our joys and sorrows, better fits a person to enjoy this life, than to move in the bustle of the busy world, to mount the hill of fame, or to shine and dazzle in Courts. But every one for his calling, some are called to hassle with the world; to contend with the raging elements of passion, to war with the evil propensities of man’s nature, and to sow the seeds of truth and virtue in soil where there is little fruit to be expected; but such ideas have been so often developed it is unnecessary to repeat them, and I will pursue my journal.

Time passes on, and we have little to complain of, but flies and musketoes. flies, especially, are very annoying here in the winter; which is June July and August. no other insects are at all troublesome. no venomous reptiles except one called the Santapied; the sting of that is about like that of the bee. I have never seen one stung by them, tho I often find them about the house. The weather is very warm, but it is not oppressive: the pure air from the sea is at all times refreshing. The climate on Tubuai is really very healthy.

[The Launching of the Ravaai, Missionary Ship]

About the third week in May we were all invited over to see the Ravaai [Ravaai, the fisherman] launched; the Sabbath previous [we] sailed around in the new boat Br Whittaker had just completed.¹ we set sail about sundown did not make the opposite side till late in the evening; the moon shone very bright and we experienced no inconvenience by being
out in the night. When we landed we saw a good fire burning which
looked very cheerful shining through the trees. the friends came to meet
us on the reef and carried us in their arms to the dry land; there were ten
females old and young in the boat. The people had been a long time
learning tunes to sing, and making preparations to have a great dance at
the launching. the vessel had to be drawn a considerable distance by
hand which required all the strength of the Island; the part not belong­
ing to our church refused to assist unless the king would grant permission
for them to have a dance; it was granted, and great pains was taken to pro­
cure ornaments; they were busily engaged for a long time in making
native cloth, and painting it with brilliant colors; it was very gay; it was cut
in pieces about two yards in length a hole in the centre to put the head
through, and when thrown carelessly over a snowy white dress had the
appearance of taste. Early on monday morning we assembled ourselves to
see the parade and witness the maneuvers. Officers were chosen to con­
duct the movements. A messenger was sent before them to announce
their approach; there were two large companies each company occupying
his own space of ground in the dance; they had no musick except what
they made by singing, and so clear and loud were their voices, one would
almost immagine himself listening to an italian band. Their dancing was
in form and order, and great exactness in time was observed. To describe
the different exercises, the unheard of gestures, and the scene through­
out, would require a painters art; it differed entirely from anything I had
every seen before.

There was a vast amount of food prepared and laid in a pile; a num­
ber of hogs roasted whole, all the different fruits of the Island prepared
in various ways for eating; a clean spot of ground was selected, and spread
over with cocoanut leaves, on which the food was laid: men were then
appointed to divide it out to the respective families, and a portion to the
foreigners according to their numbers.

When the first exercise of dancing was over they commenced
pulling upon the vessel; ropes were attached to it on each side, of which
all the people men and women and children laid hold; they were obliged
to take advantage of the low tides or stand in water up to their waists.
many severe efforts were made before the vessel was started at all; loud
and incoherent ejaculations of a te, a! te, a! were heard. the wives of the
missionaries were spectators. they were not for a long time invited to take
hold of the ropes; at length an old man fastened on an additional rope
and called for the "vahine papa's [foreign women]" I went forward and
laid hold; it happened that instant to move for the first time; loud accla­
mations resounded almost deafening about the strength of the foreign
women; it soon went to the edge of the water; from whence it was moved
but a short distance each day, for four days. The dancing still continued;
and the feasting until all the food was consumed; the labor was then suspended till more could be cooked; and we returned home before the vessel went off into deep water.

[About the first] of May she was brought round on the west side [of] the Island. Great rejoicing was manifest when the ship was seen under sail. Preparations were then made for a voyage to Tahiti, and the pamuto's [Paumotus]; and the tenth day they sailed. Br Gruard was appointed Capt; Alexander first mate. Elder Pratt and our eldest daughter E [Ellen] took passage on board the Ravai (fisherman). It was anchored a mile and a half from town we all walked up and went on board sailed down till we came opposite the town; the boat was sent to bring us on shore where we stood and saw the new ship move off under full sail. The women on the beach whose sons had gone were lamenting in a most piteous tone wringing their hands and tearing their hair; it is a custom the people have here when their friends die or go to sea. we had not thought of weeping at seeing our friends leave till we heard their cries.

The elders all left the Island except A [Alvarus] Hanks; he was left to look after the women, as sort of shield and protector; we all expected to be very lonesome but on the contrary we enjoyed ourselves remarkably well. The natives nearly all left the village and went back towards the mountains to dig pea, that is arrowroot. So the village was very still and quiet. I spent much time in reading and writing. I read Mr. Williams' missionary enterprizes among the Islands,² I was highly pleased with it I had no idea of the immense numbers of Islands that have been brought to a knowledge of the scriptures and have abandoned idolatry the labors of the british missionaries have certainly been great and have been attended with great success; they have prepared the way for the true gospel, and they do indeed deserve great credit for what they have done; they have been zealous to promulgate what light they were in possession of, and they could not be blamed for not teaching what they did not know. I am often pained at hearing them found fault with. I often ask why is it that human beings are so inclined to find fault with each other, when all are so imperfect? that they are what they are answers the question.

[Mountain Climbing Excursion]

June the 7th. we took an all day walk; we climbed the highest peaks of the mountains and surveyed the surrounding scenery; the atmosphere was a little heavy so that we could not see clearly at so great a distance as we otherwise could; but we made many little discoveries which interested us; found many little plants and shrubs entirely new; the brake which is common in America, we found grown to large trees some thirty feet high with branches more than ten feet long the trunk of a pithy substance
about four or five inches in diameter, perfectly straight; affording a beau-
tiful shade for the goats which we found feeding on the mountains. The
beautiful little grotto's and arbours seemed alluring, almost sufficient to
tempt one to seclude himself and live alone with nature; there he might
stay and sleep in the bowers, no cold winter to oppress him, cool breezes
to fan him in summer; when hungry he could go down to the foot of the
mountains where grows a plenty of good food and fruits, which is free for
all; where thought I could another such place be found where man could
live alone without labor and suffer so little?

After having fatigued ourselves till we had hardly strength to walk,
we commenced our return; we plunged down the steep precipices
through the thickets where before entering it appeared impossible to
make our way through: but we found goat paths through the dense brush
and shrubbery which facilitated our way down. I however became so com-
pletely overdone that I was obliged to sit down upon the ground and slide
down the last mountain. Mr Hanks left us and hurried home to prepare
supper. Sister C and I sent the children ahead with a sufficient apparatus
to make a cup of tea which consisted of a coffee pot and two saucers: we
had prepared ourselves with some refreshments before setting out on the
excursion. They struck up a fire on the bank of the first stream and when
we overtook them the tea was made.

I sometimes thought I should be obliged to sit down and send for
help. but little faithful Ann Louise encouraged me by suffering me to use
her for a staff; and at last I reached the foot of the mountain in safety;
and we all sat down to rest ourselves and drink a cup of tea. we did not
reach home till after dusk. So lame was I for a whole week I could scarcely
walk; but I could now say I had seen and walked on the top of the highest
mountains on Tubuai, and I thought it was worth the pains.

[Native Foods]

It was amusement for us to see the natives make their pea [pia, arrowroot];
it grows in the ground like irish potatoes; the method of grating it is a
novel thing; they tie a hard stout cord around a block of wood, on which
they pulverize the root; then through a cloth fastened on to a frame they
strain it off, rinse it a number of times, settle it, drain off the water and it is
done; no whiteness can exceed it; they then spread it on native cloth in a
close yard made for the purpose, and dry it in the sun. It is most delicate
food when prepared with the water of the young cocoanut and a little of
the cream: with eggs and the flour of the arrowroot, puddings of the choici-
est kind can be made. All the while the labor of pea was going on, the
dancers kept up their exercises; it is their custom to make amusement of
almost all kinds of labor; thus filling up their time with play, like children.
There is one kind of labor however of which they do not make play, that is the cultivation of tarrow; it is very laborious. Swampy ground is used for the raising of that vegetable. ditches are dug on all sides of the parcel of ground appropriated to the purpose, that the water may be let on or drawn off as may be required. the tarrow grows in water which is constantly kept running; as often as it is taken up for the use the tops are replaced and so the patch is kept good for successive years. Many years ago when there were many more inhabitants large portions of the Island were appropriated to that purpose. now it is all grown over with grass, and from the mountains it has the appearance of a garden overgrown; the ditches at that distance resembling paths between the beds, and surrounded by so many large fruit trees, it looks like some cultivated spot on which great labor has been bestowed, but it has lain in that same condition for many years.

[Return of the Ravaai from Her Maiden Voyage]

The Ravaai (fisherman) is the name of the new ship recently built here; it is a staunch vessel of about eighty tons burthen built of tamanu [large timber tree] wood a species of mahogany equal to it and more enduring; it is almost as hard as iron. It has a convenient cabin containing twelve berths. She made the passage to the pamutos and returned in six weeks, the precise time proposed for her to return. We did not expect her so soon, for we thought people never came at the set time; however, on the evening of the same day we walked on the beach, as if we would expect to see her coming in. Frances remarked thus, “O if I could see the Ravaai heave in sight I would dance for joy!” but no, she said in another moment, “I would rather they would not come till we are better prepared. I wish to clean the house and make some little arrangements.” At that instant the cry was heard, pahi a hoi [a boat is here]! it resounded from one to another, who all cried the same as loud as they could scream; it was dusky and we could not clearly discern it; but we ran in the direction of some clouds which we thought was the ship, till we were convinced of our mistake, and then we ran back again; it laid off and on through the night and came to anchor early in the morning. Two hours before day found us all up cooking our breakfast, and preparing to receive our friends.

It was the 21st of June about seven in the morning our friends came on shore Br Brown came with them from Tahiti. They all looked healthy and were in high spirits. Ellen was pleased with her voyage. She had excited much curiosity among those who had never seen a white woman before. She carried with her a musical instrument with which she diverted many who had never seen such a thing in their lives; they made her several nice presents, and two females had proposed to make friends
with her, one on Tahiti and the other on Ravaivi [Raivavai] the custom is advantageous to foreigners who come here; one who calls himself your friend will feed you while he has a morsel for himself; and if he owns any thing you want, it is at your service.

Br Brown spent one week with us and we had a fine visit; he is a clever young man, bids fair to make a good Tahitian scholar. While the ship was lying here we had lively evenings. Br Gruard left his wife at Auu ra [Anaa?]; he seemed in better spirits than I ever saw him; he seemed free to act himself whereas when his wife is present he appears under restraint; so much is she inclined to jealousy, that she makes herself unhappy as well as her husband.

The 4th of July we prepared to go to the motu Islands [low island] lying a little east of this; but the weather became squally and we concluded to give it up. It was brother Brown’s birthday; we felt anxious to have some little extra’s performed, but the rain prevented. So we went over to brother Gruard’s and were all weighed. I weighed 109 pounds as much lacking one pound as I did when young. The next day being the 5th the ship sailed; taking all the Bullocks from the Island. Our boy went for a pleasure trip. Mr Hanks went to join the elders at the paumotu group. The ship being gone and all settled, we renewed the schools; for a while the boys seemed very anxious to get a knowledge of figures. but it soon became an old story with them; several learned very well, but they do not like strict discipline, neither close application. This is the sixth week since the vessel left the 2d time; we still continue the school both for ourselves and the natives.

24 July Spent the day in the old Fare bure ra [meeting house] teaching school it never once occurred to our minds that the day was passing away unheeded; we had intended in some way to celebrate it, but the ship left on the 4th and the most of the white men being gone away on her there were not enough of us to make it any object to get up a feast or party.

[A Horseback Ride to Mahu]

The 25th Mr P and myself went on horseback, to Mahu; had a beautiful ride; I was charmed with the scenery, the tall Ito trees [aito, a tree] overshadowing the beach present a most splendid appearance; some of the branches extending for more than 50 feet, forming a complete shade over the beach; it was low water, and the beach was covered with a variety of shells. I felt delighted with the ride. We reached the town about 4 oclock in the evening many of the people were out fishing, did not come in till quite dusk, by which time I was quite hungry; they appeared pleased to see us and gave us a good supper, and I do not remember ever
having enjoyed a meal better. That night there was a severe gale of wind on the sea; the waves roared like thunder; and we were alarmed for the safety of the ship, which we knew was lying at Matauru. We spent the evening in telling interesting stories about America; the native brethren and sisters were greatly amused with my stories about Buffaloes, which I managed to make them understand though my talk was rather broken; they praised me, said I had done well to learn what I had.

We spent the Sabbath went three times to the house of worship I understood but little of the preaching but was quite charmed with the singing. Rui a toru the brother where we staid is a great man for the scriptures he is very desirous to have light and knowledge; he is indeed a wise man for a native or a tauturu oe [assistant] as he calls himself. Monday 26th we came home it was high tide; in some places the water was very deep on the beach; a view of the sea was grand; far off near the reef the waters were a clear bright color, of blue and green intermingled; the reflection of the sun upon it gave it a spangled appearance, as if ten thousand diamonds were shining there. Ah, thought I, your beauty displays itself to the eye, but your threat'ning voice warns us that death is concealed beneath your billows; we reached home and found there had been a severe gale of wind, the ship of whose safety we were apprehensive had been driven on to the rocks; and many were engaged in trying to get it off; the trees near the house were stripped of their verdure, the ground covered with leaves and foliage; some of the banana trees were blown down; the vessel was saved and soon put in repair.

It was the Brig Ann, Capt Harrington belonging to Tahiti: he brought a quantity of damaged goods, of which I purchased a hundred and twenty four yards, in exchange for a dress pattern I brought from California a small sum of money; besides the making of five pairs of pantaloons; likewise I bought ten pounds of sugar. I found when I came to make up my cloth, that I lost but very little; some of it being only slightly mildewed, but the strength not injured.

[Reflections, Meditations]

We are placed here with no salary and forbidden by government to ask any thing of the natives but the Lord provides for us in a way we little expect before hand. The natives give us food and that is all they have to give; and often that is only vegetables; as they are not always supplied with fish for themselves: fortunately the missionary is a gunner: when we lack meat he goes to the woods for wild hens, and to the tarrow patches for ducks; and thus supplies his family with meat: so the poor elders of the last days struggle through life sustain themselves and preach the gospel: no livings to grow rich upon like the Rectors in England; but with their
own hands they labor for their own support; and teach the people; looking for a reward in future, even a crown of glory with the ancient Saints, who endured hardness as good soldiers.

Three little girls we have in charge, to whom we are teaching the English language; it is really an agreeable task: to see their powers of mind developed, and their aptness to learn, reconciles me to labor with this people; being convinced that they are capable of being highly improved. When they are first taken from among their friends, they are exceedingly wild; they have no idea of modest deportment; to race and run like the wild animals is all they know; very soon however they become domesticated; they will sit at the table and receive food on their plates, handle a knife and fork; and behave quite becoming; they have sweet melodious voices for singing; are very fond of music; our three eldest daughters have each one in charge; to instruct in habits of industry and learn them to talk and read.\(^4\) The grown persons seem to take great delight in reading; they read the scriptures faithfully: the old man who provides a great portion of our food, and sleeps in the cook house, often is heard reading his bible at a late hour of the night.

17 of August being the Sabbath, after noon we had a discourse in our own language. Elder P spoke upon the first principles of the gospel for the benefit of our children, and two white men came to hear who do not belong to the church, we were all edified and comforted and I felt that the truth, is always good to hear.

In the evening I went down to Sister Crosby’s for some reason I could hardly tell why a lonely feeling came over me. I went home, the evening was far spent; a native brother and sister came in to be instructed from the bible; while their teacher was thus employed I thought I would seek a lonely and silent retreat and spend an hour in prayer and meditation. I retired to the far end of the garden; I had pain in my heart, a word of reproof had fallen on my ear, it heightened my sadness. I hurried to seek a secluded spot; the footpath led underneath large trees, the stars were looking out in all their brightness; the bright blue sky shone in tranquil beauty; the moon was gone, and the twilight shades seemed passing lovely; the wind was low, all was still, save the loud roar of the old oceans waves; they murmured in the distance; the air was mild and balmy; I sat me down, the place seemed sacred; I gazed up into the sky and thought of the bright world where our Saviour dwells; I sighed and prayed. I thought of the dear sisters in the valley of the mountains, and longed to commune with them. I thought of, and loved those most who like me have had sorrows; so clings the heart to objects assimilated with it. Two or three hours passed away and I was not aware that I had been out so long. I occasionally looked to the window to see if the light still continued there; a calm came over me, it was sweet and silent; it seemed to me that
holy beings were around me; it seemed a foretaste of happier days; I had been thinking of blighted joys, of days when I looked upon the world as full of charms, of the change that came over my brightest prospects, and how my sun of hope went down in early life; then I thought how the bright star of the gospel had arisen in my hemisphere, with what enthusiasm I had followed it, what dangers I had encountered and what deliverance I had found; how my life had been preserved, and how many dear friends I had in the church who I believed sincerely loved me. A holy calm came over me, such as I seldom feel; I looked towards the window, I saw the light extinguished, I hurried to the house fearing a reproof, for staying out so long; which I met, but being slight I bore it, and did not suffer it to disturb my peace. I retired to rest and slept soundly. So ended the 17th night of August.

[Missionary Works]

22nd day  Arrived the ship Ravaai from Tahiti. We were all greatly rejoiced to see it safe back; as we had had fears respecting her safety their had been several severe gales of wind. Our friends Haamatua and family all came; they brought their children and presented them to us. Said here are your children; we commit them to your care; do with them as you think proper. they are really good good children, and I look upon them as my own, and already I feel an affection for them. O what a work is there to be done here! how much these children need benefactors to raise them; like the wild animals in the woods they run at large; and if they were tamed and cultivated they would be gentle and amiable like our own children. I can say I love them for the sake of pity, and compassion, and because I see they are human beings like ourselves; they have the same kind of sympathies the same affections; those who know the truth love it and devote their hearts to it.

23d day  I am going to Mahu on horseback to spend the Sabbath with my Companion.

25th day yesterday being the Sabbath we had four publick exercises, three in native one in english on the first principles for the benefit of our children. It seems always new and good to hear the doctrines of the church set forth. The evening was spent at Br Crosby’s in singing hymns; our new children are beautiful singers. While we were all seated around the room I looked about and could not help thinking how pleasant it was for us to be together and enjoy each other’s society in this remote corner of the earth. I mean those of the same nation: when we are separated we feel lonely. when we meet we feel a double pleasure for having been parted. To day our school has been quite enlarged; but the dancing party came in sight and hearing, and disturbed us much,
with their wild musick, we all heartily wish they could be prevailed on to give it up.

26th day. This morning had flour for breakfast, a luxury we seldom have. J Layton brought a barrel from Tahiti, invited us to partake with him; he is a generous fellow, well calculated to provide for a family; but he has a native wife who knows nothing about housekeeping; so he must be father and mother both, to his children. The natives are fond of flour; when Haamatua vahine, saw the flour brought in, she said in the native tongue, “it is for you and me” I told her it was and that I would divide it when cooked.

27th day. Yesterday caught a severe cold; the first I have had since I came to this Island; a sudden change in the weather has occasioned it. I had a bad night, slept but little; feel very unwell today; my spirits are drooping and despondent; a thunderstorm awoke me in the night, and for several hours I lay thinking of the storms of life, some of which had fallen on me; and more heavily than even my most familiar friends have been aware of; but hope soothing consoling gladdening hope sometimes bursts into my often languishing mind and tells me there is a brighter day to come; a day ushered in by the gospel which I so gladly hailed when I heard the sound; “this hope supported me when I bade my native land farewell.”

29th day Yesterday the whole family went to the other village and left me alone in possession of the house. I was pleased with the idea of staying alone, my house is thronged so much, and more especially since our friends came from Tahiti. I thought it would be so still and quiet to be left a few days; one day and night has passed and I have not been one hour alone; in this old Fare bure, ra, I can sometimes retire to myself and be out of sight, and this is all the place I have unless I go in to the woods, or to my yard in the evening. I often ask the question Shall I ever have a house with a private room in it? where I can retire for communion with God and with my own soul? I look forward to the time, and would even dare to hope. This morning our good friend Haamatua came from Mahu to bring me some food; so thoughtful he was about me because I was left alone; but it was unnecessary, for I had plenty.

[Conversations with Grouard]

Br Grouard spent the evening with me and we had great conversation, he is generally interesting; it is evident he is not very happy in his companion, but he makes the best he can of it, and tries to think it all right; how unfortunate for one to be looking in vain for happiness to the source where he desires most to find it!

31d Yesterday was Sabbath and we had a very thin meeting in consequence of so many having gone to the other town. We had however
three services, a few words each time; I was quite alone at home, except brother Gruard called in the morning and took breakfast with me; he feels discontented and longs to go to the church. I wish indeed he could go; he has lived here among the Islands secluded from the world so many years that the idea of going to Salt Lake appears to him like going to heaven; but here he is tied up, a vessel on his hands and a native wife, in debt and a little income; he feels that he has been an unfortunate man and indeed his early associations have made him so; he has now his third wife and yet he feels that domestic happiness has not yet fallen to his lot; and he sighs for it in secret; whether there are grounds for hope I know not; it seems hard that for a little misstep in youth one must drink sorrow the remainder of their days; but it is even so, as we sow, so we must reap. I hope deliverance will come to all like him eventually, whose souls are in bondage. The laws of nature must be obeyed or misery will ensue; if an unwise step is taken even if no one but self is wronged, yet the result of that false step will be unhappiness, in a greater or less degree according to the nature of the act or deed done; it is not that any one wishes a little error punished, or that God is offended, but simply the natural result of mismanagement, bringing its own train of evil consequences, which cannot be avoided. How good it is to be guided by wisdom and guarded by truth; how many a precious youth might be snatched from the whirlpool of bitter regret, would the hand of experience lay hold on them and lead them back before they have advanced too far on the fatal ground.

[Missionary Life]

Sept 2d Mr P went to the mountains yesterday and killed a goat; we are all very fond of the meat, but the natives are very squeamish about eating it; we can hardly prevail on them to taste it, except those who consider themselves belonging to our family; they seem to think they must love whatever we do. O that I had means to provide for the children I have taken under my charge; house room that I could keep them under my immediate direction. I could keep them from running with other children in the streets, by whom they will be sure to be contaminated. Our house is small, I can only accommodate a few at the table, and I have only lodgings for six besides my own. I am pleased with the improvement they are making: it is really amusing to hear them try to talk English.

Last evening we spent a portion of the time in singing, as we generally do our evenings. A young woman has lately come from Tahiti with Br Layton, whom he has taken in charge to watch over. She is really a splendid singer after the native style. She is quite young, but young as she is, she has lived a long time in sin; being instructed by her mother to commit sin to get money; thus are these poor children abused. She is very
pretty, and looks innocent. I feel sorry when I look upon her intelligent countenance, and hear her pleasant voice, that she must be sacrificed to so base a purpose; there is something ensnaring in her very looks; had I no daughters of my own, I would take her and teach her to love virtue and practice it; but as it is it would not do; her conversation would stain the purity of their minds.

3d day The weather is fine and the air delightful. I spend the most of my time at the Fare burera from the window I see the children running and racing like so many wild animals. Many pretty looking intelligent countenances I see among them; growing up with no more cultivation than the pigs have: once in a day we call them to school to read, they are so wild and restless it is very unpleasant to keep them long in; some of the more steady ones we keep sometimes a half day. I should indeed be thankful to see something done for them; it seems hard to see human nature abused and neglected like the brute creation. I now call to mind the poor red men in our own country, suffering in cold weather; here they are exempt from that, they do not realize suffering here, but by growing up in ignorance they bring curses on themselves, which are entailed to their posterity.

4th day. A great many people are now sick with colds; something like the quinzy prevails; they want me to nurse them and I have nothing to do it with; they have nothing fit for sick people; they ask to have their teas sweetened, though they know I have no means of buying sugar; but they seem to think missionaries can have whatever they want: they call on me for medicine, and I feel aggravated to tell them I have none; it is really important that persons sent to reside among them should be provided with little necessaries, and especially with simple medicines to nurse the sick; it increases their confidence in us when by any means we are enabled to do them good: they are poor helpless creatures in many respects. When the wind blows from a certain quarter here, it afflicts the people; they have colds and headaches. it does not however affect us so much, we are better guarded by the manner in which we clothe ourselves: they ought to have their buildings constructed with conveniences for making fire in them.

5th day I feel unwell this morning from eating too many dried bananas, they are too clogging to eat on going to bed. we have nothing here to eat between our meals, unless we take a piece of cold tarrow, and unless one is very hungry it is not an object: Oh, what do those who live in luxury know of the privations of the missionaries, who carry the gospel to the heathen? they can live in ease, eat and drink what they please; they have their good in this life.

6th day Sabbath. Held three services, Paraita the third, broke bread, procured from the ship Ravaai; generally bread and fruit is used, and
cocoanut water instead of wine. In the afternoon arrived the Rurutu vessel with several passengers from Raivai vai, they brought word that the house for the missionary is finished; so I suppose we shall soon be going there; the people are very sick there, and undoubtedly need our aid: but the dread of going at this time, is that a vessel belonging to the King is getting ready to follow us, to carry a company of what is called tu hauries [ori, the dance; Arioi Society, privileged libertines?] that is, a gang of dancers; they have never heard the true gospel, and it seems an unfavorable time to carry it. This gospel will be new to them, and this dancing tolerated by the French government I suppose will be new also, as I understand it has never been practised on Raivaivai. I earnestly pray that something may prevent them from going, but the Lord will order all things right.

7th This morning eleven persons were baptized; some were sick baptized for the recovery of health others for the remission of sins a large company collected and we sang a hymn at the water’s side. This afternoon called at the Fare bure ra three females from Rurutu very neatly clad, and appeared quite intelligent. I asked them in the Tahitian if they had heard of “Paraita.” they replied “e tuutu tahito ne [?] Rurutu.” That is “he is of old report on Rurutu.” I asked them if they would like to hear about the Mormon church? they answered e, but as I could not speak Tahita very well, I asked them to call at the house and Paraita would tell them about it. The people of that Island are of good report; the English missionaries have done well for them, in teaching them habits of industry and cleanliness.

8th last evening the people came to sing and continued till very late. they were learning new tunes; I listened to them with pleasure for a long time. I at last became weary and went out walked in the door yard and listened to them; no people can excel them in keeping time but they wear out a tune in learning it; whenever a new tune is introduced, it must be sung over and over a hundred times if it takes so long to learn it; all in one evening; not willing to postpone it till another time. This morning I went out to meet the Rurutu friends: they wished to learn tunes of us; I sang one hymn ten or 15 times in succession, by which time they sang it well.

The two little girls, we have taken lately, sing delightfully; it is equally as pleasant as having an instrument of musick in the house; they sing with energy as if they felt the thrilling effect of their musick in their own hearts. I look upon them with admiration when I see them thus engaged; could their talents be properly cultivated how much they might excel in that delightful art.

8th [9th] day Last night our rest was disturbed by the sickness of brother Layton’s wife; the elders were called up to lay hands on her and her little sister who was sleeping in our house was called up to go and see her; it is a native custom when taken sick though they may not consider
themselves dangerous all the connexion far and near must be sent for that they may all counsel and sympathize. This morning the female from Raivaivai called and enquired for Ellen; it was her niece who had made friends with E when there; for that reason she called E her grandchild; and land belonging to her niece she called Ellen’s land; that is the way when two persons make friends the property of each is considered holden in case it is needed; nothing is too good to be given to a friend; though they may need it themselves never so much it is no consideration, if the friend wants it.

9th day This morning a sister in the church was taken alarmingly ill with the cramp cholic. She sent in great haste for the Elders to administer. Mr P had a few days ago refused to lay hands on her and her husband on account of their using so much tobacco; upon which they were both rebaptized: This morning the elders went at her request; they both having covenanted to put away the use of tobacco entirely. I annointed her with oil and laid warm herbs on her bowels, after which the elders laid hands on her, and she was evidently better: since that I have carried her chicken broth and she tells me her pain is entirely gone: poor creatures: they know nothing about nursing each other; children they are in very deed.

10th day The children are growing very indifferent about learning; they can bear no rigid discipline; as soon as the lessons are read they wish to be on the run, and it would require more exertion than I should be willing to make to keep them in. I have all I do to keep my own children at their studies; lonely as they are, they do not like confinement; the government of children what a task! blind and deaf to their own interest, they wish only to be let alone: they are more faithful to the children they have in charge than to themselves. As for the natives (I mean the grown persons) they have an idea that missionaries are smart enough to sustain themselves, teach them for nothing, and furnish them with many little necessaries, which they are not in the habit of buying; and all because they are the servants of God, and have more ability to accomplish things than common people; they expect more sacrifice and self denial, they look at the example of the Saviour, and expect us to be like him.

10th day very high winds today, no fish will be taken, so unless we get fowls we must do without meat: another week has gone and I do not feel sorry; the time will soon roll round for us to go home, and I shall be thankful; to be away from all the world is not good, for the mind, it renders it gloomy. I see very little inducement to stay here. neither is there much to stay in any place in this world; there is so little real happiness; surely what there is we ought not to deprive ourselves of.

15th day one year ago this . . . day we left the coast of California, that was the Sabbath . . . this is monday. Little did I then think, what was before me; the extreme sickness and all the disagreeability of that voyage
were hidden from me and perhaps wisely; for had I known beforehand what I had to suffer I could not possibly have undertaken it. I hope much good will arise from my coming here though it may not be realized at present. I have endeavored to sew good seed, the fruit may be gathered up after many days. My daughters have set an example of industry and sobriety before the native females; it may result in good. it is a trial to have them in my family, yet I submit to it in hope that the effect may be good: certainly example and precept together is better than precept alone.

[Supper at Grouards]

16th day. Last evening Br Gruard invited Mr P and myself to supper. We had tarrow, cabbage and pork; and the tops of the young tarrow boiled for greens; his wife assisted in cooking the supper but when done would not sit at the table to eat with us; she preferred eating on the ground. in the room of pies and puddings we ate pearies; . . . (that is the dried banana:) they are equal to figs. . . . spent the evening at Br Crosby’s and were . . . ably entertained with the musick of the . . . and accordian which Ellen and her uncle . . . admirably together: the native friends all followed. . . . the house was filled; that is the custom of this place.

Today the weather is cool and cloudy, uncomfortable without a fire. The school is not well attended, so soon does any thing become an old story with the natives. O, how dull everything is here! I marvel when I think how a few white men have stood it here so long; it would be like being ushered into a new world for them to go back to society; yet their native wives would be a mortification to them.

17th day Cold and rainy. The white brethren all went out early to the reef after fish; returned wet and cold without any. So again we are without meat. Every Wednesday morning we have prayer meeting at the hour of sunrise; this morning the elders being gone, Hoatau [?] led the services: he has a powerful voice and great energy and force in his manner; he has great zeal for this cause; the natives have a great deal of natural oratory, power and warmth in argument.

18th day. The storm has been severe for three days, probably will continue till the sun crosses the line. Spent last evening at Brother Grouard’s, he knows not what is best to do; is anxious to go forthwith to California to get a large ship. Mr P is not in favor of his going. thinks it will keep us here too long. O how perplexing to be in suspense!