

Bingham, Hiram. Report on Voyage of
"Morning Star" from Honolulu to Micronesia 67-68.
In Letters & Papers of the American Board of
Commissioners for Foreign Missions

The new Morning Star left Honolulu on her
first voyage to Micronesia on the afternoon of
Monday July 1st 1867

She anchored the next day about noon in
A bay where she was welcomed by Mr.
Johnson and his people. Quite a
of donations in the way of provisions were made
by the friends of the vessel. She sailed again
the same evening, having taken on board Mr.
Johnson. Owing to not a few days of light
winds, it was not till midnight of the 21st (or
in reality of the 20th as we had no Saturday)

that we sighted Waitibu or Tracey's Island, one
of the Felice Group in Lat. $7^{\circ} 28' S$. Long. $178^{\circ} 44' 6''$
about one hundred miles to the eastward of Qui.
The latter being the first point at which we were
instructed to touch. As there was scarce a
probability of our being able to reach Qui the
next day in time to go ashore it seemed good to
the delegates to remain near Waitibu till
morning, especially as the captain was desirous
of accurately rating his chronometers. We hoped too, to
have some intercourse with the people, & to learn whether
as yet a Samoan native missionary had been left
among them.

At an early hour the next day four canoes put
out for the vessel. On board one of these was an
umbrella, & we felt that civilization must have

already commenced its work. (Much to our joy
 we were soon boarded by Pen, a native missionary
 from Samoa. From him we learned that he had
 been on the island one year and eight
 months; that its inhabitants were hundred +
 eighty four, that half of them had already
 their souls + embraced Christianity; + that all the children
 + younger people had learned to read; that their
 language was the same with the Samoan; that quite
 a were hopefully converted, whom he
 expected to baptize he was so advised, when
 visited by their missionary. Our short visit
 on shore deepened our impression of the Church's
 work so well commenced. A large + well-built
 church some fifty seven feet long by thirty six,
 with its neat pulpit, built by the gratuitous labors
 of the natives, was an object of special interest; and
 the large + scrupulously neat dwelling of the
 Teacher was a model for the docile + quiet people
 about him. Pen spoke English; and though his
 wife could not converse directly with us, yet
 her intelligent face, warm welcome, + very tidy
 appearance, gave me a pleasing idea of what the
 Samoan female missionaries might generally be.
 The fluency of the readers, + their independence in
 singing was truly gratifying. We found several
 people from Niue speaking the Gilbert Is. language,
 who were able to read readily in the new books

which we brought out from Boston & Honolulu. You can imagine my pleasant surprise at seeing a copy of a reprint of our little Hymn-book, - done at Samoa for the benefit of the Tui people, + also one of the sixty-four

We shall not soon forget this ^{visit, though} delightful contrast of the results of the year & eight months' missionary labour here with those of six years + a half at Apiaing could not be otherwise than - I had almost said painful.

The island of Waitubui is three or four miles long & one in width. Like the Gilbert Is. it produces nothing but the coconut + pandanus & a species of Taro. In the center is a beautiful lagoon with no visible connection with the sea. Through inquiring, we learned from Pen, that neither food nor money were sent them from abroad, but only clothing & some utensils. A visit at this island would doubtless benefit our Hawaiian missionaries. Our own impressions are delightful.

built for and used as church and school house. But while all appeared neat, yet no confusion could be made between this building and the tower at Vortuona of which I have spoken; but when we remember that the whole building was erected by the gratuitous labours of a tribe in whose veins freely flowed the Gilbert Is blood we ~~shall~~ will give them great credit for what they have done. While in the sitting-room we were visited by the King who called to present several luscious green coconuts which were brought in and in the middle of the room by quite a retinue of men who all came up to shake hands with us. [In the meantime the chapel had been filled so quietly by a crowd of people that their presence was not suspected till a glimpse through a crevice in the partition revealed the pleasing sight. When we were ushered in, at the request of Mr. Johnson, the Captain our chief speaker from a knowledge of the language took the great pulpit chair, the mode, in front of which was a stand. Back of it was hung a written list of rules of decorum for the house and a line of dates. On either side were printed seats, furnishing seats for the strangers and for the King. On the right as we faced the audience were a large number of well dressed women with their hair

nearly parted and arranged (the vessel Gillet's island foodie
being to allow the boat to hang down with the full load),
while the men, suitably clothed, occupied on the left, and
the children immediately in front. These too all in a
measure clothed. Some two hundred, nearly the entire
population of the island, were present. At a word from their
teacher passage after passage from the former hotel at Havelala
in 1866, such as the stories of Cain and Abel, the offering
of Isaac, the deluge, Jesus at the well (quoted from John),
child's catechism of 24 questions and answers and a catechism
of 75 questions and answers in the Christian religion, the Lord's
Prayer, the Ten Commandments & Confession of Faith and
Covenant were repeated with the most surprising fluency and
unison. During the exercises they also recited a part of the
Gospel of Matthew, and, had we desired it, their teacher
informed us, they could have recited eleven chapters of
Matthew. The substance of Mr Murray's letter to Mr
Bingham was stated to the people, and the reason for our visit.
The books were then arranged upon the table, and the
examination of books in reading commenced. As we could not spare
books enough to give one of each kind to every reader the
plan was adopted of giving the preference to such as exhibited
the greatest proficiency in the art. The value of fluency

readers, both of men, women and children was perfectly surprising; and the sobriety with which they would turn to any chapter and verse in the Gospels of Matthew and John and the Epistle to the Ephesians, any chapter of the Bible Stories, in addition what they had never before seen, showed how thorough had been their drill, and how eager their zeal for Learning. Their exercises in singing were also pleasant. Hours we have been delightfully passed but time was fading us. Each hotel was furnished with at least one book. Of readers Kirisone furnished the following statistics, of boys and girls 26; men 35; women 36; total 107. During the whole exercise not a breach of decorum nor a sign of heaviness was observed. Their behavior was inexceptionable. These exercises were closed by addresses from the delegates, singing and prayer. We learned that there were 27 women and 19 men whom Kirisone regarded as truly the Friends of Jesus, and ~~the~~ who were candidates for baptism. With most of them we held an informal interview ^{afterwards} crossing them up on Christian level. Among them were the Mayor, ~~noting~~ and he of whom mention has been made and his wife, also the King of the island Taurie. The readiness of the latter in respecting the catechism was noticed with much satisfaction by both delegates. As we crossed the flat

on our return to the boat he left us cooking and upon parting urged the captain to come again.

This ended one of the happiest days of our lives. We had been permitted to see a nation of people born in a day. Not two years since the first Christian missionary came to dwell amongst them and from the first have they furnished him and his family all necessary food without pay. One Christian feeds them one day, another another; and if by any means there is a famine, several neighbours see that the missionary and his wife and child have something to eat. The island produce no breadfruit, a few varieties of pandanus, scarcely edible; a species of taro, a little sugar-cane, an abundance of coconuts and ^{we or two} ~~the~~ banana trees see raised; and yet this missionary depends on no provisions from abroad. He ceased hobby and cuttled in his work hardly knowing when he could be visited by an English missionary. What a model for our Hawaiian missionaries.

With respect to the work on Nihi it is no more than justice to state that previous to the arrival of a missionary not a little religious instruction had been given these people by a Mr Robert Waters, an English trader.

(2 to Tamara)

BINGHAM, HIRAM, REPORT ON VOYAGE OF "MORNING STAR" FROM HONOLULU TO MICRONESIA 1-7-67 TO 21-1-68 IN LETTERS AND PAPERS OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The new morning star left Honolulu on her first voyage to Micronesia in the afternoon of Monday July 1st 1867.

She anchored the next day about noon in H Bay where she was welcomed by Mr Johnson and his people. Quite a donations in the way of provisions were made by the friends of the vessel. She sailed again the same evening, having taken on board Mr Johnson. Owing to a few days of light days winds, it was not till midnight of the 21st (or in reality of the 20th as we had no saturday) that we sighted Waitibu or Tracey's Island, one of the Ellice Group in lat. 7. 28S. long 178, 44'6 about one hundred miles to the eastward of Nui, the latter being the first point at which we were instructed to touch. As there was scarce a probability of our being able to reach Nui the next day in the time to go ashore it seemed good to the delegates to remain near Waititbu till morning, especially as the captain was desirous of accurately rating his chronometers. We hoped to have some intercourse with the people and to learn whether as yet a Samoan native missionary had been left among them.

At an early hour the next day four canoes put out for the vessel. On board one of these was an umbrella and we feel that civilization must have already commenced its work. (much to our joy) we were soon boarded by Pen?, a native missionary from Samoa. From him we learned that he had been on the island one year and eight months; that its inhabitants were hundred and eighty-four, that half of them had already their souls and embraced christianity; and that all the children and younger people had learned to read, that their language was the same with the Samoan; that quite a were hopefully converted, whom he expected to baptize he was so advised, when visited by their missionary. Our short visit on shore deepened our impression of the churchs work so well commenced. A large and well built church some fifty seven feet by thirty six, with its neat pulpit, first by the gratuitous labour of the natives, was an object of special interest; and the large and scrupulously neat dwelling of the teacher was a model for the docile and quiet people about him. Pen spoke English; and Miough his wife could not converse directly with us, yet her intelligent face, warm welcome and very tidy appearance, gave me a pleasing idea of what the female missionaries might generally be. The fluency of the readers, and their independence in singing was truly gratifying. We found several people from Nui speaking the Gilbert Island language and who were able to read readily in the new books which we brought out from Boston and Honolulu. You can imagine my pleasant surprise at seeing a copy of a reprint of our little hymn book. done at Samoa for the benefit of the Nui people, and also one of the sixty four

We shall not soon forget this delightful visit, though the contact of the result of the year and eight months missionary labour here with those of six years and a half at Apiang could not be other wise than- I had almost said painful. The island of Waititbu is three or five me? long and one in width. Like the Gilbert Island it produces nothing but the coconut and pandanus and a species of taro. In the centre os a beautiful lagoon with no visible connection with the sea. Through inquiring, we learned from Pen, that neither food nor money were sent there from abroad, but only some clothing and some food utensils. A visit at this island would doubtless benefit our Hawaiian missionaries. Our own impressions are delightful.

am 21st 22nd
NUI

We sailed at two the same day, and were off Nui (netherlands of eeg Islands) easily the next morning. This island is in lat. 7 27S. long 177, 15' E. Three other island of Ellice's Group lie between this island and the Gilbert group, each containing a population of about three hundred, but speaking the language of Waitutbu and Samoan, while the inhabitants of Nui speak the Gilbert Island language. Nui is distant from Brocae? the nearest of the Gilbert Island 260 nautical miles and 590 from Abaing. On board the fisrt canoe which visited the vessel was a native of Abaiang who had been much in the employ of the missionaries on that island. His pleasure at the reunion was very noticable. Not long after we were boarded by Kaisine the Samoan teacher who was left on the island by the missionary vessel Dayspring in November 1865. He could not speak English but conversed with ? ease in the language of the people. We were much surprised at the proficiency which he had made in the language during his short short stay. us the books which we proposed we accompanied on to the shore. We were met by a large group of natives, clothed and in their right minds. We went to the missionaries house, with pleasure as we passed a misherded bell. In the end of the building were two rooms, a sitting-room and balcony, and at the other a spacious room, near 40 feet by 30 feet built for and used as church and school house. While all appeared neat, get so c could be made b this building and the two at Varituper of which I have spoken; but when we remeber that the whole building was erected by the gratuatons? colonies of a tribe in which veins freely flowed the Gilbert Island blood we will give them their great credit for what they have done. While in the sitting room we were visited by the King who called to present several furched green coconuts which were brought in and in the middle of the room by quite a native of men who all came up to shake hands with us. In the meantime the

In the meantime the chapel had been filled so quietly by a crowd of people that their presence was not suspected till a glimpse through a crevice in the partition revealed the pleasing sight. When we were ushered in, at the request of Mr Johnson, the Captain as chief spoke from a knowledge of the language, took the great pulpitchair, here made, in front of which was a stand. At the back of it was hung a written list of rules of decorum for the house and a line of slates. On either side were provided settees, furnishing seats for the strangers and the for King. On the right as we faced the audience were a large number of well dressed women with their hair parted and arranged (the usual Gilbert Island fashion being to allow the hair to hang down over the forehead), while the men, suitably clothed, occupied on the left, and the children immediately in front. These too all in a measure clothed. some two hundred, nearly the entire population of the island, were present. At a *ward* from their *teacher* after passage from the *primer printed* at Honolulu in 1866, such as the stories of Cain and Abel, the offering of Isaac, the deluge, Jesus at the well, child's catechism of 24 questions and answers and a catechism of 75 questions and answers in the christian religion, the Lord's prayer, the Ten Commandments and Confession of Faith and Covenant were repeated with the most surprising fluency and unison. During the exercises they also recited a part of the birth of Matthew and, had we desired it, their teacher informed us they could recited eleven chapters of Matthew. The *contents* of Mr Murray's letter to Mr Bingham was stated to the people, and the reason for our visit. The *books* were then arranged upon the table, and the examination of pupils in reading commenced. As we could not *spare* enough to give *use* of each kind to every reader the plan was adapted of giving the preference to such as exhibited the greatest *proficiency* in the art. The *number* of fluent readers, both of men, women and children was perfectly surprising; and the rapidity with which they would turn to any chapter and verse in the Gospels of Matthew and JHohn and the Epistle to the Ephesians, any chapter of the Bible stories, in addition what had since before seen, showed how thorough had been their drill, and how eager their zeal for learning. Their exercises in singing were also pleasant. Hours *had been* delightfully passed but time was *against* us. Each pupil was *left* with at least one book. Of readers Kirisome furnished the following statistics, of boys and girls 26; men 35; women 36; total 107. During the whole exercise not a breach

they read passage

one

proficiency

left

women



of decorum nor a sign of weariness was observed. Their behaviour was . These exercises were closed by addresses from the delegates, singing and prayer. We learned that there were 27 women and 19 men whom Kirisome regarded as truly the Friends of Jesus and who were candidates for baptism. With most of them we held an informal interview *assuring* them of our Christian *live love*.

..... *Abasiang natives?*
mention has been made and his wife, also the King of the island Taukie. The readiness of the latter in repeating the catechism was noticed with much satisfaction by both delegates. As we crossed the flat on our return to the boat he kept us and upon parting urged the captain to come again.

Abasiang natives

This ended one of the happiest days of our lives. We had been permitted to see a nation of people born in a day. Not two years since the first Christian Missionary came to dwell amongst them and from the first have they furnished him and his family all necessary food without pay. One Christian feeds them one day, another another; and if by any means there is a failure, somebody always sees that the missionary and his wife and child have something to eat. The island produce no breadfruit, and poor variety of pandanus, scarcely edible; a species of taro, a little sugar-cane, and abundance of coconuts and one or two banana trees were *sited*; and yet this missionary depends on no provisions from abroad. He seemed happy and contented in his work hardly knowing when he would be visited by an English missionary. What a model for our Hawaiian missionaries.

pandanus

the nu/ sighted

With reference to the work on Nui, it is no more than justice to state that prior to the arrival of a missionary not a little religious instruction had been given these people by a Mr Robert Waters, an English trader.

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

262 1111

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

NEWSPAPER - MICROCOPY READING ROOM CALL SLIP

CALL NUMBER mfm G 4124 - - 4148	READER'S NAME HENRY MAUDE	DATE
	READER'S SIGNATURE	TIME
	ADDRESS (HOME OR OFFICE)	
TEL. NO. (HOME OR OFFICE)		2880121
TITLE American Board of Commissioner for Foreign Missions.		PLACE OF PUBLICATION
DATE OF PERIOD REQUIRED 1.7.67 - 21.1.68		

NLA118