

were so zealously endeavouring to instruct them in knowledge and religion.

This short address was immediately answered by Paofai, a chief who holds the office of chief judge, and who is generally considered as the ablest and most clear-headed man in the nation. His reply was delivered in an earnest and animated manner, and contained many expressions of gratitude for the attention and kindness shown them by the people of the United States.

The exhibition of the schools did not surprise me so much as the fact that few natives are to be met with who cannot both read and write. This was not confined to the younger part of the population, but was true even of those advanced in years. I also learned that they had schools among themselves, and that parents were well aware of the advantages attendant on sending their children to them. In these schools great pains are taken to inculcate cleanly and industrious habits, with sound moral and religious principles.

The hours of attendance are confined to the forenoon, and during these the schools are crowded. The parents are unwilling that their children should be confined for a longer time.

Our consul, Mr. Blackler, had made complaints to me, as soon as I arrived, of the conduct of the queen and government, and asked my interference. The charges consisted in the following items:

1. The seizure of an American whale-boat and ill treatment of the crew.
2. That fines had been unjustly imposed on American seamen.
3. The refusal to apprehend deserters from American ships, or to provide a place for their safe keeping.
4. The evasion of a promise to provide a place for the transaction of the consular business.

In consequence of these complaints, I had immediately requested that a council of the chiefs might be held, and the 17th September was appointed for the purpose. On this day I ordered all the officers that could be spared from the vessels to attend. Captain Hudson and myself set out at an early hour, accompanied by several boats. We passed down through the reefs, and reached Papieti at ten o'clock, where we were joined by our consul, and in his company proceeded to the building which has been mentioned as the scene of the exhibition of the schools. Here we were received by Mr. Pritchard, who politely showed us to the seats we were to occupy. He then called the names of the chiefs, and each answering in his turn, took his seat on the side of the building opposite to us.