

island, and to give a better idea of them I shall divide them into three classes.

The first class comprises merchants, if they can be so called. The sole object of these is to make money. I regret to say that, as far as my observation went, this purpose is not accomplished without injury to the welfare of the natives. This class endeavours to place both the persons who compose it and the premises they occupy beyond the reach of the local laws.

The second class is composed of the children born upon the island of missionary parents. Of these many seem to have forgotten utterly the principles instilled into them in their infancy.

The third class is much the most numerous, and those I include in it appear destitute of all moral or religious principle. They stand out openly and boldly in defiance of all law and decency. Among them continual complaints are to be heard against the missionaries, the government, and the people. On being asked to state the ground of their complaints, most of them fail in presenting any other charges than that the missionaries are endeavouring to make the natives too good; that they deprive them of their innocent luxury of intoxicating liquors; that they interdict promiscuous intercourse, and have ruined the trade of the island by preventing the women from going on board ship; that they have interfered with their amusements by abolishing lascivious dances and songs, and requiring from them instead, prayers and hymns; that they have introduced too strict an observance of a Sabbath, translated the Scriptures, and taught the natives to read them. Others argue seriously, that this mild and amiable people had no need of instruction in divine revelation; that they would have been much happier had they been left to follow their own inclinations; and that they have been rendered miserable by being taught their responsibility as accountable beings.

The missionaries, however, receive countenance and support from a more respectable portion of the foreign residents. These, although they do not approve of the whole of the course the missionaries have pursued, are united in upholding the moral and religious principles which they endeavour to inculcate.

Although much has been done for the improvement of the natives, still it appears evident that much more might have been done if the missionaries had not confined themselves so exclusively to teaching from the Scriptures. The natives, by all accounts, are extremely fond of story-telling, and marvellous tales of their ancestors and ancient gods, are even now a source of amusement. The missionaries, as I am told, possess much information in relation to the history and