

ment they were all extremely civil, and said they only wished to look at us, although some were disposed to feel us.

Mr. Simpson led the way to his house, passing by a thick and well-built stone wall, the only one which I had seen used as an enclosure in these islands; on my inquiring if it was the work of native labour, I was informed that it had been erected by an Irishman, who is now the overseer of Mr. Simpson's sugar plantation. This wall encloses a large lawn, with a number of fine bread-fruit trees; on each side of the walk was a row of low acacias, which were at the time in full bloom, with flowers of many colours,—yellow, orange, red, and variegated; at the end of the walk was a low thatched white cottage.

Mr. and Mrs. Simpson have the care of a school for the children of missionaries and respectable white parents: these are kept entirely separate from the children of the natives; the reason assigned for this exclusiveness is, that the danger of the former receiving improper ideas is such as to preclude their association with the latter. This may be good policy as far as the white children are concerned, although I doubt its having a good effect on their minds if they are destined to spend their lives among the islands. The habit they will thus acquire of looking upon the natives as their inferiors, cannot fail to have an injurious influence on both. The exclusiveness is carried so far, that the children of whites by native women, although they are united in the relation of husband and wife, are not admitted into these schools, because, as they say, they do not wish their children to be contaminated by intercourse with such a mixture of blood. In pursuance of the same policy they have, as it is said, procured the enactment of a law prohibiting marriage between whites and the natives.

This, I must say, appeared to me the worst feature I had seen in the missionary establishment. It is placed here for the avowed purpose of reclaiming the natives from idolatry, and the vices which are its concomitants. In doing this, their most successful efforts have been in the conversion and moral improvement of the young; yet they bring up their own children to look down upon them as beings of an inferior order. In becoming acquainted with this feature, I no longer wondered at the character, which I was compelled by a regard for truth to give, of the children of missionary parents in Tahiti.

The missionaries are now aware that their proper plan is to devote their time and attention to the young; and in pursuance of this object, Mr. and Mrs. Howe have lately arrived from England, for the purpose of establishing an infant school.