

walked to Mr. Smith's church, the children of the governor and chiefs heading the procession. I was invited in due form to the feast, and as it was a place where I anticipated some display of the native character, I made a point of going. On my arrival at the church I found several tables set out, one for the accommodation of the chiefs, furnished as we see for a 4th of July lunch at home, with hams, turkeys, chickens, pies, &c. The common people's children took their poe and raw fish on the floor.

On arriving at the church, the governor became master of ceremonies, and with his numerous aids endeavoured to direct the throng; but all were too eager to get the most convenient seats to heed his commands, and the uproar was great. Some stopped short of their allotted place, and the church soon became a human hive. The governor did his utmost to maintain order and silence, but his voice was not heard; for in such a moment the anxiety he was under to have things conducted with good order, caused him for a time to lose sight of his usual urbanity and decorum of behaviour. He in fact showed that a little of the unbridled ferocity of former times was still within him, which moved him repeatedly to use his fist, and that too upon the fair sex, tumbling them over amid calabashes of poe, raw fish, &c., but with little injury to the individuals. Order was at last restored for a few minutes, during which grace was said by the Rev. Mr. Smith; which being ended, the clatter of tongues, clashing of teeth, and smacking of lips began. It was a joyous sight to see fifteen hundred human beings so happy and gratified by this molasses feast: poe and raw fish were the only additions. The latter are every-day food, so that the molasses constituted the special treat. So great is the fondness of the natives for it, that I was told many are induced to send their children to school, merely to entitle them to be present at this feast. It was not a little amusing to see the wistful faces without, contrasted with the joyous and happy ones within; in one place might be seen a sturdy native biting a piece from a raw fish, and near him another sucking the poe off his fingers, with much grace and sleight of hand. The molasses was either drank with water or sucked from the fingers. I thought that selfishness predominated among the crowd; the parents and children did not entirely harmonize as to the share that was due to each, and none seemed fully satisfied. Of the molasses there was "short commons;" but, all things considered, the feast went off well. I regretted it had not been held in the open fields, and that the natives were not allowed to have the whole management, without being so immediately under the eye of their teachers; for though suffi-