

4.—*Tamahere.*

Until lately there was here a boarding-school for both sexes, kept by Philip Matewha, a Ngati aua chief. The school-house is a very large raupo building, about a furlong from the village of Tamahere. Part of the floor is boarded. All the children were taken away from the school by their parents in May last. Philip said it was in consequence of the "trouble," and that he would not have them again. I was told by Wm. Thompson, that the cause of the breaking up of the school was Philip's own "idleness," for he was so long absent in Auckland, getting money from the Government, that when he came back the children were gone. On making farther enquiries from the Rev. J. Morgan, I learnt, that on Feb. 18th. Philip applied to Mr. McLean for a Government grant of £30, to buy clothing for his children; on March 30th Mr. Morgan received a letter from the Native Office, directing him to spend £15 at his own discretion upon the school. On April 14th, Mr. Morgan went to Tamahere to see the school; Philip was at that time absent in Auckland, and only seven children were left in the school. While Mr. Morgan was sitting drinking tea, he heard Thompson and others talking about the school, and Thompson said, "Piripi is very long away in Auckland, this man will not do for teacher for our school." On April 18th, Mr. Morgan wrote to the Native Office, to recommend that no grant should be made; firstly, because the number of the children was so small; and, secondly, because a Government grant was likely to do harm to the school. He got a reply from Mr. McLean to say that before the arrival of his letter, a grant of £8 had been made. The money was paid, and on Philip's return no children were to be found in the school.

5.—*Matamata.*

This is a boarding school for both sexes, under the patronage of Wm. Thompson. It is situated on the plain of the Thames, about two miles below the new village of Peria, and not far from the site of the old Matamata Pa. There is a very large piece of land set apart for the school, in the angle between two deep streams of running water, near the junction of which the school buildings are placed. The houses for boys and girls are at a distance of about a furlong from each other, and both sexes have convenient bathing places. There is one very good building, containing two rooms, with glazed windows, a table and a bedstead, designed for a European teacher. This school has suffered very much from the Taranaki war, the number having been reduced from 63 to 14. There are three teachers, Piahana, Heiaraka, and Raniera; the first is a chief of great rank. During part of the examination, seven girls and two young boys only were present, the older boys were away at work; but three of them made their appearance afterwards. The order and discipline were excellent. The children march in and out of school, and handle their books to a word of command, on the system pursued in infant schools.

All the children read Maori perfectly. All wrote down Maori, dictated by the teacher, legibly and without any mistake. They wrote on slates.

Their knowledge of arithmetic was most creditable, on the whole the best I have met with in any Maori school. They intoned the multiplication and pence tables, and answered easily all the questions put on these subjects. All could write down figures for any number named, no one failed in a question in addition, and all but three succeeded in reducing a proposed number of 'twopences' to pounds. All the arithmetic was done in English.

They repeated a number of little catechisms by rote, and answered questions in Scripture history well.

No geography is taught. The teacher said that even if he had maps he could only point to this place and that place and tell their names, and what wiser would the children be.

They have copy-books, but no ink, and no table to write at.

They are all acquainted with the English letters, but cannot read. A strong wish is expressed to learn English, but they have at present no opportunity. William Thompson and his tribe have for years past been trying in every way possible to get a European teacher for the school, but without success. The children breakfast at eight, and have school till dinner time: after dinner they work till evening, and then have supper and evening school. They are very well fed having pork every day. I am sorry to add that I came upon pits where putrid maize had been prepared. All were clean and neatly dressed.

The school has, for its present numbers, plenty of books, which were given by an English lady, and are most carefully preserved; plenty of slates, of which I did not find any cracked. They are preserved in a box, and carefully brought out by the teacher at the beginning of each lesson, and as carefully returned at the close. This school receives no Government aid; it is supported by the produce of the land above mentioned, of which about 20 acres are this year sown with wheat. I found Thompson and his eldest son at work ploughing for the school.

6.—*Rangiaowhia.*

There was a school at this place, under the superintendence of the Rev. Father Garaval. It was given up in May, 1860.

I was informed by Father Garaval, that there were at that time twenty four boys in the school. They were sent away to vacation, and as the priest was removed from Rangiaowhia in consequence of the war, the school was given up. There are no school buildings.

The children lived on potatoes, flour, and rice, with meat on Sundays and Thursdays. Some of the food was given by the parents, but all the clothing was provided by the managers of the school.