

## REPORT OF ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL, AUCKLAND,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1857.

The number of inmates on the list is 31, but 20 may be stated to have been the precise average throughout the year. The cost of each of them to the Board has been £12 17s. 6d., and if the female teacher's salary be included it amounts to £15 17s. 6d., thus proving by the converse what I have stated to the Board in my Memorandum of April 29th, that scholars may be maintained in the country at one-third or one-half the sum which they cost in Auckland.

In compliance with the wishes of the Board, an attempt has been made to organize the Institution on a new principle, viz., to admit proficient scholars from other establishments in the hope to qualify them for Native teachers, and eventually for Holy Orders. Six such students have already been received, and when joined by their families in full they will form a charge of 19 or 20, while 5 girls who have been for some time in the School have under peculiar circumstances been permitted to remain.

The student's time and attention have hitherto been confined,

Firstly, To Biblical Studies. In these special regard has been had to parallel passages and synonymous words. The latter attempt has, however, been attended with considerable difficulties, inasmuch as the Maori translation contains words from several dialects apparently of one and the same signification, and these words have been used to express the various and beautiful shades in the records of the Holy Scriptures.

In order to remove this difficulty, and to bring the minds of the students from "vague generalities" to clear and defined conceptions, the English Bible must be made accessible to them. Indeed it appears to me that Native teachers, and especially those designed for the Ministry, should be able to use the English Bible as a commentary to their own.

Secondly, The Maori translation of the Old Testament has also afforded us a profitable employment. The students have carefully read it over with me to correct typical errors, and make such suggestions and remarks as may be of use to the Committee appointed for the final revision of the Maori Bible.

Thirdly, The students have also made some progress in plain Church history, which has proved to them a most interesting branch of learning. As they make their notes during the lesson, and these notes need careful correction before they record them in their books, we have not been able to advance further than the latter part of the second century of the Christian era.

These efforts it must be confessed have been small, if compared with the great, the urgent and extensive demands before and around us. The health and strength of several Missionaries have been failing for some time back, the old Native teachers, whose experience and stability of character have in a great measure made up for the lack of better information and higher knowledge, are rapidly entering into their rest, while the younger members need considerably more training before they can be entrusted with any charge in this Infant Church. Men who have the welfare of the Natives at heart cannot look into futurity without considerable anxiety and solicitude in this respect. Any efforts, however humble they may be, to train promising youths under a system of order and regularity for their future usefulness, either as Schoolmasters or in the higher functions of the Christian Church, are therefore not to be despised. Even a little done in the right direction may lead to rich results, and meet with the final approbation of the unerring Judge of all men's labor, saying, "She has done what she could."

(Signed) G. A. KISSLING.

## REPORT OF THE KOHANGA SCHOOL,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1857.

The number of Scholars that passed through the Kohanga Institution during the year 1856 was 117. The average number of boarders was 85. The average number of residents in the months of January and February of this year was 99 and 101 respectively.

The present unfinished state of our farm and buildings has much interfered with the regular education of the adult male scholars. The other classes have been kept under instruction with a considerable measure of regularity.

*The Farm.*—We have put up good substantial fences on various parts of the estate, and hope soon to have nearly the whole divided into five allotments. About 15 acres was put under grass last winter, and about 37 acres was planted with wheat and potatoes and other vegetables. We regret however, to report that the soil is not yet in a condition to yield remunerative crops.

*Buildings.*—We have nearly completed a large dormitory for the girls' School. For the boys' School I am sorry to report that our accommodation is very unsatisfactory. The house for the young