

25 FEB 1936

R.M.S. "Atarua".

February 4<sup>th</sup> 1936.

Dearest Lady Maude,

We expect to reach Curacao on Friday & believe, to-day is Tuesday, & there is a mail notice for that day. Unfortunately we shall arrive at night it seems & leave in the early morning so I'm afraid we shall not see the island at all.

The first week of our voyage was very rough & unpleasant & even now the ship moves quite a lot owing to a swell & it isn't very warm yet. Harry has kept very well so far & is enjoying the voyage, he is playing deck games quite a lot now that it is fine enough to get on deck. I am enjoying myself very much now too but I started off very badly. I caught a wretched cold in London & retired to bed the day after we arrived on board, with asthma & a dreadful cough & there I stayed for five long & rather wearisome days. I had to have the doctor & he said I had a good deal of bronchitis so kept me in my cabin rather longer than I should have stayed for asthma. One good thing about it was that I wasn't sea sick at all which was rather marvellous as most people seem to have been laid low, some of them were quite bad.

A few days out Harry discovered there was a Mr + Mrs Barton on board, going to Suva + for some days we wondered if they were Government, he looked rather as if he might be + then Harry spoke to Mrs Barton one day + found that they were being transferred to Fiji from Kenya, he is to be Colonial Secretary. Sir Murchison Fletcher leaves Fiji in March + Mr Barton is to act as Governor + of course, High Commissioner. Rather amusing, especially as he will probably have to say whether we may go to Honolulu or not! Both Mr + Mrs Barton seem very nice, Harry + Mr Barton have had some very long talks, I think the latter is quite glad to meet someone who knows something about the islands as he has spent all his time in Kenya.

Quite a different crowd of people seem to travel by this route, the majority are doing the round trip + elderly men predominate, there are a mere handful of young people on board. However there are lots of games + the lists are up already for a tournament. Every evening something is arranged, dancing, bridge tournaments, cinema shows + concerts, only the last two appeal to us. The first picture was awfully exciting, Chu Chin Chow + it was a talkie; there is another tomorrow but I don't know what it is called.

There is a very nice family called Richardson on board, the daughter is about my age - I like her very much + play games with her a lot. The gymnasium is rather fun, the horse trots or gallops + there are bicycles + a sculling machine, we spent one wet morning there. The swimming pool has been filled at last, it can't be used when it is very rough because the water overflows, + we both went in this morning but I felt cold afterwards so won't venture in again till it is warmer.

Our cabin is very comfortable + we are very glad we did not go further down, it is very stuffy down there. The upper bunk has been folded up + the bed made up on the settee which is much nicer. Our stewardess is ever so nice, a little Scots woman, + she looked after me awfully well when I was laid up.

With much love to you all from us both.

Your loving  
Honor

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(2) of 1936



9<sup>th</sup> February, 1936.

R.M.S. "Akaroa"

Dearest Mother and Father,

We're between Curacao and Panama now and are due at the canal tomorrow. It's been fearfully hot and stuffy since leaving Curacao and everyone has wilted for ourselves who thrive on it. I guess Helen has told you how much better I have been getting as the days get warmer and now it's over 90° I feel completely rejuvenated and play games from morning 'till night.

We were unlucky at Curacao and only saw Willemstad at night. We thought it a lovely place, quite barren and really hot and full of the most marvellous little Dutch houses all neat and clean. I quite lost my heart to the island and wanted to stay over but we have so much luggage. We passed close to Aruba yesterday - just as hot but more barren. They say nothing grows there but some maize and nearly everyone has the most marvellous car. Mine of your last year's model for these islands. The Curacao,

I believe, is made in Trinidad.

They had a riot earlier in the evening and several people were shot down in the streets but we arrived just too late to see the fun.

The passengers here are pretty paralytic on the whole and he vowed never to go on a passenger ship again. They seem well enough but suffer from too much money and too little grey matter. I should say their average age was well in the sixties. I hadn't realised that the ship would be full of loafing cruise people but imagined these

would be chiefly Australians and New Zealanders returning home. Actually only a handful on board appear to do a spot of work for their living and the vast majority just go aimlessly from cruise to cruise. They can string off enormous lists of huts they've been to but couldn't tell you a single thing about any of them except the name of the leading hotel and what you can get to eat. As often as not they can't tell me what country the hut is in.

We've started deck games - the competitions I mean - and so far he's won everything bar the Mixed Doubles at Deck Quits. I guess, however, that



R.M.S.

we'll be knocked out of most things next round. We're not allowed to choose our partners in the Doubles events so we may draw an absolute misanthrope.

Thanks awfully for the translations. He's read through it carefully and it's quite O.K. I do hope you'll be able to send the remainder with the books soon. Don't bother about copying it out - it's quite understandable in pencil and please send the three

books when you send the translations. You've no idea how important it all is, especially Finch and Kramer.

The pages you sent contain some dates I'd been trying to get for years.

Now he's in full form I have been doing quite a lot of work, principally Frazer. What a brain

that man has got and a model in carefulness and method for all to follow. I was lucky when in

London in getting his, "The Belief in Immortality among the Merimexians" and

I can honestly say he read nothing finer in the Gilbeite ever in Gumble. And his boldness in treating

Meronesia as a unit - no one else  
has ever dared to do that and, indeed,  
no other Englishman has ever seriously  
tackled any part of Meronesia bar  
the Gilberts. However, I look

forward very much to reading Finch and  
Kramer particularly the former but I believe  
that he will furnish the key to much  
that remains hidden from us at present.

Helen wrote to you from  
Curacao and I guess gave all the  
news though I shouldn't wonder if this  
does not reach you first. Mr. Barten  
arrives one rather though they're both ~~very~~ very  
nice. He so obviously considers that there's

no good in the world except what  
comes out of Kenya Colony and that  
he's being sent to the Pacific to teach  
us how to run things. I must say  
it seems unfair that all the plum in  
the Pacific go to Africans who have  
to be given enormous salaries before  
they'll consider the transfer. Last year  
~~that~~<sup>they</sup> made Ashley from Nigeria Resident  
Commissioner of the Solomons and instead  
of the £1,000 which a local man  
~~we~~ would get they give him £1,400.  
and now Barten is offered £1,500 as  
Colonial Secretary, Fiji, instead of £1,200  
which is the normal salary of the post.  
and yet we cadets to the Pacific service



R.M.S

are told that we should be quite content with our maximum possible salary of £600 whereas in Africa for the same work and grade they get from £960 to £1,350. ~~They~~ The Colonial office have told Burton that they fully realise that our salaries in the Pacific are a scandal for the class of men they send out and that they are considering sending out no more cadets and appointing only low grade local men in future. It's all very



see but what of the men they have  
sent out.

Must stop now as there is  
nothing to write about and the  
vibration here is so terrific that I  
can't write straight anyway.

With lots of love from your  
devoted

son

Harry.

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10 APR. 1936

R.M.S. "Akarua".

nr. Pitcairn Island.

19<sup>th</sup> February, 1936

Dearest Lady Maude,

It seems that there is just a chance that a mail dropped at Pitcairn will be picked up in a couple of days. The Captain says we shall not arrive before dark, unless we make a couple of record runs, so we shan't see anything of the island though we may see a few islanders if they come off to the ship.

I am so glad we have seen the Panama Canal, it really is worth while coming this way just for that. We arrived at Colon on the 10<sup>th</sup>, very early in the morning & started up the canal about 6.50 a.m. The channel to the first locks, Gatun locks, is very narrow & the shores on either side very densely wooded; we could see bananas, papayas & a few breadfruit growing & hear the birds singing in the trees. There are three compartments in the Gatun lock & the ship rises 80 feet to the level of the ~~lock~~ above. Eight engines tow the ship through the lock & then she proceeds under her own steam. It is very pretty crossing Miraflores lake, the channel winds in & out amongst little islands, hilly & densely wooded. About 11 a.m. we reached the next lock & then proceeded through

several cuttings + much deeper country - We passed a number of ships all through the canal, neither have to tie up when passing. The settlements of canal workers round each lock are beautifully kept + masses of hibiscus + bougainvillea were growing round the houses. The last lock was reached at lunch time - after another very short stretch of water we docked at Balboa about 2.30 p.m.

We went ashore + drove to Panama City, had a walk through the town + then drove out to Old Panama, saw the residential parts of Panama City on the way + had a marvellous driver who took us everywhere. There is such a conglomeration of races in Panama, Negroes, Indians, Americans + English + mixtures of all. Everyone dressed up to the nines in the latest fashion. We were very disappointed that we were too early for mangoes + soups. We sailed the same evening + heard that the Port Brisbane was just ahead of us as she went through the canal when we were in the town.

Harry has not been very well the last two or three days so I have put him in the doctor's hands. It is very disappointing as he was so much better but I suppose these set-backs

are inevitable. We are both enjoying the voyage very much & I am even dancing. To-night there is a fancy dress dance & I am going in my Gilbertese dress. I have some brown powder I got from the barber & hope it comes off all right. We have had several cinema shows, some of them very good, especially the scenic ones of New Zealand.

It seems to have been dreadfully cold in England since we left, we wonder if it has been bad in the Channel Isles.

Much love from us both to you all

Your loving

Honor

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6 APR. 1936

(4)  
19/36

% Lady Robertson.  
"Rannoch"

Almorah Road.

Epsom

Auckland S.E.I.

19<sup>th</sup> March, 1936.

Dearest Lady Maude,

We both received letters from you yesterday and to-day a parcel containing the flock arrived.

Harry is much better again & we hope the injections are doing good. A couple of days ago he had a "test meal"; he had a plate of porridge & then had to swallow a rubber tube & every 1/2 hr. for 1/2 hour, some of the porridge was retrieved through the tube & examined. The result was a report showing that the amount of acidity in his juices is almost negligible & he isn't digesting his food properly at all. Now he is to take acid with his meals to help things on.

We shall start on a short motor tour on Saturday probably, & go north of Auckland to the Bay of Islands & several other places. The weather so far has been very nice, sunny but not really hot, & as it was very wet before we arrived we may have fine weather for another few weeks. We thought of buying a second hand car & re-selling it but we find we should drop more money that way than buying a

car by the week. As Auntie does not seem to mind having us & I am allowed to use her car there did not seem to be any point in having a car all the time. Second-hand cars are an awful price here, about the same as new ones at home, and you drop 50% when selling again.

Auntie has just had two days in hospital, having a rather nasty injection for sciatica, unfortunately her leg seems no better so she will have to have another injection.

How is Mona getting on? Still liking it I hope & happy in London. Harry has actually been having a few guitar lessons & has had a few official letters to write. I'll get him to write to you next mail.

Much love from us both to you all.

Your loving,

Howard

No 5 of 1936

8 APR. 1988

"Horn Devil"

Pachira

North Island

New Zealand.

27<sup>th</sup> March, 1936.

After discussing the possibilities of a motor tour for some days we left Auckland on the 22<sup>nd</sup> in a small, tired Morris car en route for the north of the north island. The first day we only went about 30 miles as we wanted to see how we got on with a fresh car + also because hotels are few and far between + the next suitable stopping place was much too far. We crossed Auckland harbour by ferry + then had a good road for about 10 miles, after that it was fairly rough + the last bit down a winding hill was rather nasty, the corners were very sharp hair-pin bends + the camber very steep, however, we arrived at Wauwera, our destination in just under two hours. Wauwera is a tiny bay surrounded by steep wooded hills + it boasts a hot spring with curative properties. We slept there one night + started early the next morning for Whangarei, 87 miles further north. The road out of Wauwera was decidedly bad + the corners even worse than those on the other hill + soon after leaving Wauwera we met a man who told us to go slowly as one car had overturned that very morning! I thought we should caperize at two corners but we negotiated them safely + I began to feel more confident. I was driving as Harry had not tried his hand at all. We went along fairly even country + moderately good roads for some time until we reached a gorge + even that wasn't too bad except for a bridge at the beginning which had "Danger" written up in large letters + a notice saying owners took cars over at their own risk. Not very nice + we had to go forward as Harry tried

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jumping on it + nothing happened so I drove over + heaved a sigh of relief when I reached the other side. At the end of the gorge however, just as I thought my troubles were over we turned a corner + the road seemed to end abruptly, there was some very rough ground, steep too, + then a stream. Once again it was quite impossible to go back so on we went, extremely cautiously, + found the crossing not so bad. A short distance further on the same thing happened again + this time the approach was steeper + the bend from the track to the stream quite hair-raising so Harry went ahead + told me which way to guide + that too was crossed safely but my heart had quite a lot of work to do that morning! After all this excitement we stopped the car in a very pretty cove + had lunch. We had been travelling on a secondary road + soon after lunch got back on to the main road + a good road too as Whangarei is quite a large place. In many places the <sup>main</sup> roads are dreadful, mere tracks scattered with loose stones which they call here "metalled roads". The country is just masses of hills, though we came across one plateau after leaving Whangarei, + the roads wind up + down + in + out amongst them. We spent one night at Whangarei + left next morning for Puhia. The road at first was good but soon became very bad + then it began to rain + as we were going up into the hills it rained harder + harder for some time. The drive that ~~evening~~ day was fairly easy, except for the awful surface of the road, except for one place very near here where a bridge over a stream has given way + it has to be bridged, a holed bit of steep bank



Bahia is in the Bay of Islands which is famous for its beauty & the deep sea fishing just outside. On the day after our arrival we decided to go round the Bay in the launch which collects the cream as well as taking passengers. A Miss Mackay who is also staying here came with us & we left at 8.30 a.m., it was rather overcast but we all thought it might clear. We picked up 6 more passengers & started off quite gaily seated in a glassed in compartment at the front of the launch the cream cans being in a well at the stern. After about an hour a gale had risen & we had to cross an open stretch of water right across the entrance to the bay where the gale was blowing straight in. It don't think it is any use describing the terrors of the hour it took to cross that bit of sea, I can only say I didn't know a boat could live in such a sea or bounce about so much without sinking. I've never been so frightened in my life & I don't think the others felt much happier & 4 of us were dreadfully sick into the bargain. We didn't get home until 4.30 p.m. but the rest of the journey was quite tolerable as we were sheltered by islands most of the time & as we had turned round had the wind behind us. It poured with rain all the time so we saw very little of the lovely scenery. The gale increased all day & blew all night & the following day, the worst they say for 20 years & a lot of damage has been done. The day following our launch trip, which was yesterday it cleared up for a bit about 10.30 a.m. & one of the other visitors asked Miss Mackay & her mother & we two, to drive over to another little village 20 miles away as

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he was going over on business anyhow. Soon ~~after~~  
we had started of course down came the rain again  
& up came the wind. We had to get out of the car  
where the bridge is down as the approaches were  
so steep & muddy, otherwise the drive over was  
quite nice. However the weather got worse & worse  
so we just stayed long enough to have some  
lunch & then started home. The road was  
pretty bad by then & going down one hill we  
had an awful skid & but for a bank would  
certainly have overturned. The car went into the  
ditch but fortunately didn't stick & after that we  
went more carefully - We paddled across the  
stream & the car only just got over & so we returned,  
having quite enjoyed ourselves. To-day we have  
only walked round about the village & been out to  
tea at Wairangi & tomorrow if the weather is fine  
think we had better get out of here while the going  
is good as it has been fine to-day & the ford may  
be all right for our small car.

Harry is still keeping better & enjoying himself  
even the launch trip didn't upset him. We hoped  
to go further north but if the roads are bad we  
shall probably return to Auckland, we don't want to  
get bogged up here for weeks.

Much love to you all from us both.

Love loving

Honor

8 JUNE 1936

Nov. 8, 1936

"Rennock"

Auckland, New Zealand.

14<sup>th</sup> May, 1936.

Dearest Mother and Father,

We received your two letters yesterday, thanks and tomorrow is an mail day so we're both writing a letter each and hoping to get it into the same envelope.

I guess you heard from Hana about my unfortunate relapse just before arriving here. I was pretty bad - worse than ever before - and the doctors appeared to think that it was hopeless my thinking of returning to the Gilberts. However Sir Curick was marvellous, as I expected he'd be, and had me carried up to the Mater Hospital by ambulance and bathed in ice. The next day he examined me and heard my story and said at once that he thought I was suffering from streptococcal poisoning. He didn't think much of the colitis idea since, as he said, by calling it colitis one does not get to the cause of the trouble.

All kinds of scientific tests were made at once. Various types of blood tests, stool tests and urine tests, and as a result it was shown that Sir Curick's tentative diagnosis was substantially correct. In the pathological laboratory it was discovered that, besides the streptococcus which we'd had suspected, my colon was full of a *Bacillus coli* "markedly haemolytic in type" which of course should not have been there. The pathologist said that the particular bacillus was fairly common in urinary complaints but he had never known it to be present in the colon before.

Later on they took a "test meal" and the resultant graph showed that I had practically no acid in the digestion and was consequently unable to digest the simplest meal. A large part of my breakfast was still lying

undigested in my stomach at 1 h. m. and later.

were, they made an "autogenous vaccine" from the streptococci and the bacillary B. coli and started injecting it into me every six days, starting at 1 of a c. For the digestion they gave me ~~Hydrochloric acid~~ Hydrochloric acid, dilute, and I take about 12 drops in water during the course of every meal. A later showed that streptococci in the kidneys for which I was given Injezione Pills which soon cleared it up.

Anyway you should have seen the difference in me in a month with the injections. It was almost miraculous. The last month he became like a normal human being ~~was~~ again and am thoroughly enjoying life once more. If only I'd come to New Zealand before going to England from different it would all have been. The English doctor may be all right but they appear to have had a bit and more trouble and in any case are not nearly so up to date in medical practice as the best in Australia and New Zealand where ~~many~~ things are done or made more successfully.

Dr. Park certainly did his best and was well all the rest of his life but I guess he was hindered by the lack of laboratory facilities and expert bacteriologists in a small place like Queensey. In any case little seems it was quite the right thing to have my appendix cut though, as it follows, it didn't get near the rest of the trouble.

officially I am being treated by a Dr. Sayer as little, being a relation, does not like to be the only one to sign my certificates but he is working in a special report to say that in his opinion, and Dr. Sayer, I am not and have never suffered from neurasthenia and am, in no sense of the word, a nervous case. The marked nervous symptoms were all secondary and caused by the trouble and distress - it certainly is amazing how they have all cleared up in a few weeks.

You wouldn't know me know. Uncle is most anxious to have the "stigma" of neurasthenia finally cleared from me as he's certain that it was a ~~very~~ quite incorrect diagnosis on the part of Dr. Hanson Bahr and would be likely to hamper my future career. Dr. Dick also thought it was wrong, I believe.

The bugs in me must have been pretty potent for they have had to proceed extraordinarily carefully with the injections. Each time they increase the dose I get a most alarming "reaction" - all the old shivering, general feeling of being ill, and stomach upheavals seem to re-occur. So, after 2 months, I am only up to .6 of a c.c. and for three weeks I am to have the same dose. This again goes to prove that Uncle's diagnosis is correct.

Dr. Sayers has given a preliminary certificate saying that if I maintain my present improvement there is no reason why I should not return to the Gilberts, and I am to have a final certificate before leaving for Fiji on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Please tell all this to Dr. Dick or, better still, show this letter to him, as he was the only one who really did any good to me in England and he's one he will be interested. I wonder if you could also write and thank Sir Curick as there can be no doubt that I owe my retaining my job in the Colonial Service to him and, I feel myself, my life also, as I was steadily getting worse and no one knew what was wrong or how to treat it. Of course he'll accept no fee for all his trouble and care.

Hera will have told you of our motor tour through North Auckland. I thoroughly enjoyed it and it did no end of good. When we returned I did a lot of work at the Museum and then went down by Service Car to Wellington, via New Plymouth, Stratford, Hawera, Patea, and Wanganui. It took two days and was most enjoyable, especially the fine views of Mount Edgmont while going through Taranaki. Hera got off at Te Kuiti and stayed on Jack's farm while I put in a fine week's work in the Turnbull Library in

Wellington. Many thanks indeed for the translation of Krämer, just received. I realise what a job it must have been but, believe me, it will be of immense utility and is much appreciated.

You'll be pleased to know that the B.I. Federation is much to the fore in New Zealand. They have magnificent premises in Auckland, on the ground floor in the main street, and appear to have branches all over the country. Everyone is much excited at the forthcoming visit of the Rev. Passie Grand and he ought to be very pleased at the work being done here. I should say that it is much more in the limelight here than in the old country and the newspapers are full of B.I. news.

We came to an excellent agreement with the Auckland Museum with regard to our anthropological collection. They were most anxious to have it and will give every facility to have it displayed properly. The collection is to be loaned, not given, to them and the ownership is to remain with us. Should we become hard up we are at liberty to sell it but would probably get a better price from them than from anyone else. They tentatively offered up to £200 but of course we wouldn't sell unless very hard up. Immediately on reaching an agreement they sent a wire to you and as you have sent it off I hope it will arrive before we leave so that I can assist in the arranging and cataloguing.

Horn's two articles on String Figures are to come out in the June and September numbers of the "Journal of the Polynesian Society" and also in the June number a review of Mr. Ellis' book on "Man and Ocean Island" which I have just written, so you'll see his book to work again in real earnest. I hope Father has sent in his subscription to the Polynesian Society as I would not like him to miss our little efforts after such a long and unfortunate silence so far as published work is concerned.

Fiji has agreed to my proposal to spend a month there before going on to

Honolulu so it should give us an excellent opportunity to see the headquarters of the administration and how things are run there. For the first week we are to live with the Bartons and as Mr Barton is the Acting Governor and High Commissioner it will be a bit of an ordeal. However they have been very kind to us, particularly when I was so ill in the "Akonoa".

I guess it'll soon be getting the wind up about the conference in Hawaii. I received the preliminary syllabus a few days ago and I see I'm down to give a speech on the fifth day and I don't arrive in Hawaii till the third. The speech is to be on "Culture Change and Education in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands" and as all the leaders in Pacific Anthropological research are to be there it certainly will need careful preparation, especially as I'm the first person whose ever been chosen to represent the Colony at any conference. The Secretary to the High Commission wrote to me from Fiji and said that the fact that I'd been so ill had been taken into consideration when deciding to send me as they thought it might do me good, or it's an "ill wind that blows no one any good".

Poor Roth was in Auckland a few weeks ago on his way back to Fiji after a short leave here. Imagine my surprise when he rang me up again the night before last. We looked down and saw him at the Grand Hotel and found he was on his way to England. Poor man, on his return to Fiji they insisted on him facing a Medical Board and they threw him out as having diabetes. He's terribly fed up as he was only my age and is not entitled to a pension. He was surely the best of the younger men in the Fiji service and a first class anthropologist. They've been having some terrific changes in Fiji - the Governor, Colonial Secretary and Chief Justice have all gone and one of the younger Coadjutors has been chucked out after a nervous breakdown.

Thanks very much for sending the wireless set which arrived intact, thanks

to the excellent packing. We are busy arranging for the necessary active  
power and so took the set to one of the leading "lams" for a report.  
He related to the chief wireless specialist from here that it was a "very  
good job", which we have been informed by the head of the firm is  
very high praise indeed as this is the first time in his experience  
that an English built set has passed muster at all. Everything here is,  
of course, American as we are ten years behind them in things wireless.  
So keen is the prejudice here, based on long & unfortunate experience, against  
anything in the wireless line from England that we were quite prepared to  
hear that the set was useless for Pacific conditions.

Please excuse page 5 but an awful tragedy happened late last  
night. I was writing with an ordinary pen and upset the bottle of ink. Some  
of it fell on Auntie's green lounge table but "murd" seems to have got it  
all out. So he's not allowed to use ink any more and have to go back  
to a fountain pen.

My weight was 9 stone 7 lbs. when I came out of Hospital here - it's  
now 10 stone 1 lb. My anemia index was 75 - slight anemia due no doubt  
to the haemolytic bacillus eating all my blood up. It hasn't been tested  
since but has been given iron after every meal.

There doesn't seem any other news to give you and we must hasten to  
catch the air mail. Here is our proposed itinerary:-

Auckland dep.	May 26.	Fiji an.	May 29.
Fiji dep.	June 26	Honolulu an.	July 3.
Honolulu dep.	Aug. 19	Auckland an.	Aug. 31.

Remember Honolulu is only 14 days from England so if you feel  
like writing to us that it will be all right. An address will be



as follows:-

c/o The University of Hawaii,  
Honolulu,  
Territory of Hawaii.

I hope Muriel is sparkling in all her cylinders and me. If you only had a really good summer in England everyone should feel better. The weather here is simply glorious - as it's just in winter there is a bit of a nip in the air but not sufficient to wear an overcoat, and the sun shines down from a clear blue sky day after day so if one feels a bit cold one has only to step into the sunlight.

I must stop now and get into town. We have a dear little baby Morris "8" which makes shopping etc. so easy. For longer distances Uncle has his big Hupmobile and Auntie a Vauxhall both of which Homer drives. She's really a very good driver and much better than me as he's apt to fall into a reverie.

Well, tons of love from both of us and will write next from Fiji.

Ever  
your devoted son,  
Harry.

8 JUNE 1936

at

"Rannoch"

Almorah Road,

Epsom

Auckland.

14<sup>th</sup> May, 1936.

No. 7 of 1936.

Dearest Lady Maude,

Auntie received your Air Mail letter some time ago whilst Harry & I were away. Now the wireless set has been delivered without any trouble about customs except that the wretched Customs Dept. has opened it up & put their horrid stamp right in the middle of its face. We are awfully thrilled with the look of the set, it is wonderfully neat & portable. My morse instructor and a short-wave enthusiast in a wireless shop in town both say it is very well made & should work well. You do not mention the tests which we believe were made with the set? One man here is going to try it out to make sure it has got as far as this safely. The set is now at the Technical College where I go every afternoon for morse & I'm having instructions about minor repairs & things likely to go wrong. I am now all right working at 14 words a min. & not too bad at 16 words.

Harry returned from Wellington last Sunday week in time for his injection but I did not come back until Tuesday when Jack drove me up as he wanted to come to Auckland. It is 182 miles, we left the farm at 9 o'clock & arrived here about 10 o'clock. Harry, I think I told you, was not quite so well before he went to Wellington but he has bucked up again. He weighs 10st. 1 1/2 lbs now & has an enormous appetite. I enjoyed my week at the farm very much indeed & was sorry I had to return to Auckland. We had one very frosty night, it was awfully cold although I slept in the warm sitting-room on a camp-bed - however when the sun rose in the morning it was lovely, crisp air & warm sunshine. The farm house is built on the side of a hill & has hills all round it, a very pretty situation, especially in the early morning as the mist clears from the valley & wisps hang about the hill tops. The day I came back Harry & I drove out to some hills just outside Auckland & got wonderful views of the town & harbour from the top. In the evening we all went to see "The Tale of Two Cities", it was well acted but much too harrowing. The following day Uncle had to go to Waikeru, 50 miles away, to perform an operation so Jack drove & Harry & I went too. Uncle's car has a wireless set in it so we had that going part of the time & after leaving Uncle at the hospital we went about 5 miles further & then went for a walk which was lovely. That night we all went

to see Gracie fields in "Queen of Hearts", which was really rather good.

Do you remember the Indian salt cellars you gave me? I have been awfully lucky, we found pepper pots & mustard pots here which match them beautifully - so I have two sets now. Whilst buying these we saw an Indian silver tea-pot, milk jug & sugar basin with the same design & little elephants on the lids as nob's, it was lovely. About a month later, in fact just the other day I found a parcel on my dressing table & inside found the tea-pot etc. from Harry! I had certainly gazed about them but never thought I should possess them.

We have only 11 days more here so we are busy packing again & Harry is once again scouring the town for a box for books! It's quite hopeless, I only wish his one passion wasn't such a "heavy" one. We are both looking forward to the trip very much but feel a bit nervous about staying with the Bartons, especially as he is Acting-Governor. We have heard from Dr Macpherson & he says we are to stay with the Bartons first & then go to him. We eventually wangled tourist tickets although we shall be 4 days over the prescribed 3 months & also break the journey. Harry's expenses are paid, mine, & Tompkins, are not.

To-day Mrs Kennedy had lunch with us, her husband is A.O. of the Ellice Islands but she lives here with their three children. Last night we had dinner with Miss Wyse, (who joined the Akaroa at Panama) she is returning to Panama & rang us up when she arrived here from Australia. After dinner we took her to see "Charlie Chan" at the Circus which we all enjoyed. Everything seems to be happening at the last minute, for weeks we did nothing. On Tuesday I drove out to Papakura & gave a "talk" on string figures to a gathering of women. Mrs Thickett is secretary of the Women's Division of the Farmers' Union & asked me to talk about the Gilberts. They seemed quite interested. By the time we got back to the house it was getting dark & it is nearly an hour's drive in to Auckland so I stayed the night at Papakura. Have you seen anything of Arthur? Mrs Thickett is still in England.

You seem to be having rather a picnic with Muriel hors de combat & Ann with whooping cough. I do hope Ann did not get it badly & was soon well again. How is Muriel feeling now, much better for the operation? Do you think you could get a postcard of Mona's portrait? I'd like to see the finished picture.

I went to my dentist here & he found nothing wrong, marvellous, which shows, I think, that Mr. Hine is good. The weather now is rather cold but we had a wonderful autumn except for two or three bad gales. Auntie has central heating however & a log fire in the drawing-room so the house is lovely & warm.

I received a letter the other day enclosing a draft for £45 odd but it was addressed to Mrs A. M. Maude, 35 Harrington Edns. & came from Christchurch, N.Z. Evidently the Aban Court Hotel sent it on. I sent it to Christchurch & hope the poor lady hasn't been existing on an over-draft. We are told that there are a number of Maudes in Christchurch, do you know anything about them?

I wonder what everyone will do about Abyssinia now, it is a bit of a problem I should think. Altogether one wonders every day what new shock the papers will have for us.

You don't mention how Mona is getting on? Please give my love to all four & to Muriel who I hope is feeling ever so much better. I had a letter from Mabel last mail which I shall endeavour to answer in the near future.

With much love from

Honor.

Susa,

Tiji.

1<sup>st</sup> June, 1936.

Dearest Lady Maude,

We received letters from you soon after I last wrote & should get more tomorrow when the ship gets in as Auntie was to forward the last mail which we just missed. We left Auckland on the 26<sup>th</sup>, the Niagara was 11 hours late as they had very bad weather from Sydney so we were late leaving & arrived here at dawn instead of late afternoon and had to get up awfully early to pass the doctor & police. The first two days of the trip were unpleasantly rough & I did not get up except for a short time. The ~~first~~<sup>second</sup> day for lunch but Harry went down without coming to the cabin for me & I hadn't the nerve to go by myself, late as I waited for him.

Auntie & Uncle Maurice came to see us off & I had several presents of flowers & other things, it seems to be the custom in N.Z. When we left Auckland the weather had been marvellous for some time, just cold enough to be pleasant, & warm in the sun. We are staying with the Bartons but not at Government House as it is being redecorated for the new Governor.

The morning we arrived it was very sticky but since then it has been cool enough for cardigans. I think I am rather disappointed in Suva, I thought it would be a much smarter looking place with lovely gardens + it isn't even tidy except near Government House. The houses are most inferior. However the views are lovely + so are the flowering shrubs.

Harry is keeping well, I hope he continues to do so when he starts working. This morning we went to the hospital + were taken all over it by Dr Macpherson + met the Gilbertese medical student. The hospital is awfully well equipped + stands right up on a hill where it gets all the breeze there is. We go to Dr Macpherson to stay in two weeks time. He is looking tons better than when we saw him last, is quite fat. This afternoon I went down with the two Barton children + their governess to see Mrs Barton launch a new ship + then we all went on board + had tea + a trip round the harbour. Yesterday I went to church with Mrs Barton, they call the church, Pro-Cathedral, + it is much too high. They Choral Communion instead of morning prayer + the choir is extremely feeble, the congregation dreadfully poor too.

I finished the piece of tapestry + posted it in Auckland. I hope you will be able to make

use of it. I am now beginning some filet dinner mats - it is awfully interesting - should, I think, look rather nice.

There is some talk about Harry being transferred to Liji which would be quite a good thing I think though we ~~should~~ both regret not returning to the Gilberts. I always understood that anything would grow here but people just don't bother it seems. Everything almost is imported which is ridiculous.

With much love from us both.

Yours lovingly,  
Honor.

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No 8 of 1936

Suva,

Tiji.

15<sup>th</sup> June, 1936.

Dearest Lady Maude,

Auntie forwarded a letter from Sir Walter last week for which Harry thanks him. I believe I put Mary instead of June on my last letter, did I?

Harry has been rather misbehaving again, he first of all caught conjunctivitis from M<sup>rs</sup> Barton but as it was treated early got rid of it in three days. Now he has picked up a sore throat & feels very rotten, apparently they are very prevalent in Suva as the humidity relaxes the throat which picks up any odd germ. His inside has been rather upset again too but Mac puts it down now to nerves which he says he will gradually manage to throw off. To-day we go on to stay with Macpherson which is a good thing I think as M<sup>rs</sup> Barton is terribly impatient & is always in a ferment about something, I find it trying enough so it must worry Harry more. He is not to have many more injections as the tests show him to be free from the various germs & it will only be a matter of



time to get his nerves right. Mac says it isn't tropical neurasthenia, which he points out is what Mr Barton has, but due entirely to his unfortunate habit of worrying & fussing about everything, what he calls an "anxiety complex", which I can quite believe. He is to go before a medical board & I'm afraid they will say we can't go back to the Gilberts. We should know in a few days & I'll be able to let you know, I hope, by the next mail. It will probably mean a transfer to Fiji. Then you could visit us!

Yesterday we left Harry in Mac's care & a party of us went out to an island away on the reef. It took 1½ hrs by launch & we layed there all day & bathed. I thought the water was cold but it certainly made you glow & I was glad I had gone in. The men went out fishing & caught nothing but they also fished on the way home & Mr Barton caught two beauties. On Saturday afternoon we borrowed Mac's car & went for a long drive, it rained most of the time but it is nearly always dull or raining & views are visible about once in a blue moon as far as I can make out. The climate isn't as pleasant as the Gilberts, it is cooler but nearly always close with no freshness. The great advantage of the

place is the fresh milk + butter + fruit + vegetables. The social life too is good for one no doubt.

Last week we went to see "The Lion Duke" at the cinema - This week we go to Jack Buchanan in "That's a Good Girl", we have also seen "Mala the Magnificent", an Eskimo film which was rather good though a bit harrowing in parts.

Flowers seem to grow very well but I'm told that all the pests in the world are gathered here & do their best to thwart you. The best time apparently is about November, the wet weather is only just over now.

With much love to you all from us both.

Your loving,  
Honor.

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No 9 of 1936

Charles Atherton House,

Honolulu,

Hawaii,

22nd July, 1936.

Dearest Lady Maude,

Both our pens are behaving badly and we have just invested in a new typewriter so I hope you won't mind having a typewritten letter. We found that we could trade in our old typewriter here and the new ones were much cheaper so we have a Royal now; how do you like the new type?

We have had several letters from you since we arrived here, the latest being from Sir Walter, dated 30th June. We were very sorry to hear about the sudden death of Sylvia, dreadful for them all. Measles seem to have been everywhere lately, even in Samoa and Fiji they have had an epidemic. Mother writes that Doreen had caught it but I do not know whether the other two also developed it.

Did I ever thank you for the picture of Mona? If you could get me a postcard of the picture I should like it very much, it would be clearer than the newspaper one. I am very sorry there seems little chance of your seeing Alick at present but when he is older and his own master, or at least on an allowance, he is sure to want to visit you. I was glad to hear that Mona thought Arthur Thickett nice, we thought him an exceedingly nice boy when we saw him in 1932. Has Mr. Thickett returned to New

Zealand yet? He really is a queer man the way he wanders around and leaves Mrs. Thickett to carry on.

Our time here seems to be quite filled up with various engagements, both serious and frivolous and any spare moments we spend hunting for more information on the early history of the Gilberts and have found some very interesting reports etc.

I have <sup>sent</sup> a copy of Harry's speech to the Seminar to Sir Walter, it was considered very good indeed. There are several men here who would like Harry to go to America to study further and would get the necessary funds but it is impossible of course unless we left the Government Service. At any rate he has become known to a few prominent people which may help later on.

On Wednesday we had what they called an International evening and people from the various countries performed in some manner. The evening was a great success, the items varied from songs and dances to very good and very funny sketches. One girl whom no one suspected of having any talent gave us a lecture on "woman" and had everyone in fits of laughter. At the end we had some "hula" dances and the four senior men were dressed up in grass skirts and made to perform; some flashlight photographs were taken which were awfully good and it would be marvellous to send a copy to the Colonial Office so that they could see Mr. Mayhew performing. On Tuesday we had dinner at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, a farewell dinner with the Mappins who left on Wednesday. The hotel is certainly a wonderful place but the dinner wasn't very extra special and we all agreed we would rather

stay at one of the smaller places. On Monday we went to a bathing party and had a lovely bathe and tea afterwards and in the evening we went to a Chinese dinner with some people from Samoa. There is a wonderful Chinese restaurant here, the interior is panelled with chinese pictures in black and gold, the lanterns are lovely and the whole place very well got up. We started off with birds nest soup which is very good and had little bits of crab meat floating about in it, it tastes a little bit like chicken broth. Then we had all kinds of wierd dishes, almond chicken with water chestnuts which are delicious; a dish called noodles, I don't know what they are, and several kinds of vegetables and salads, finishing up with delicious candy. We also had eggs which had been preserved in mud and were about 100 years old, they tasted very salt but looked quite ordinary, Harry declined to eat any. On Sunday we were invited out to lunch with the Mappins at the home of an elderly lady who lives up one of the valleys and had a lovely place. She has a sort of friend or companion living with her and is extraordinarily kind hearted. She heard of a man from Hongkong who was taken ill with appendicitis on one of the liners and was operated on before they got here; he had peritonitis but was still alive and he and his wife were put ashore here. The poor things were on their way home and have now been here 3 months as a second operation has to be performed and they cannot do it until the first wound has healed and it has not done so yet. This lady, Miss Parke took the wife into her home and later on the invalid was also moved there and

they are still there. After lunch we brought the Mappins here to see our room and they had tea here and thought we had a lovely place to stay at. The day before we had gone down to their hotel for a bathe in the afternoon and took them for a long drive, Mrs. Mappin had been so very kind to us, always inviting us down to dinner and until that day we could not persuade her to come out for a drive. We went up to the famous pali, down the other side and then made a round home again. We shall be sending you a book about Hawaii presently and you will see a picture there of the road on the other side of the Nuuanu Pali, it is the most winding road I have ever driven on and the New Zealand roads are pretty bad.

Harry has caught a nasty cold which has been going round but it is clearing up again and he spent only one day in bed. Today I am going out with a party to visit a sugar plantation, it should be very interesting; Harry is staying at home as he does not feel up to what is going to be a fairly long trip with a good deal of ealking I imagine. Next week we go to see a pineapple factory.

With much love from us both to you all,

Your loving,

Honor,

P.S. Harry has just had a new passport & I enclose one of the photos for you as they are quite good.

No 10. of 1936

Charles Atherton House,  
University Campus,  
Honolulu.

22<sup>nd</sup> July, 1956.

Dear Sir Walter,

I enclose a copy of Harry's speech to the Seminar; everyone has told me he spoke very well indeed, in fact it seems to have been one of the best speeches made. Your letter arrived to-day & I will endeavour to get Harry to write to you about Fiji & Hawaii. As usual he spends any spare time routing round the libraries & has found some very interesting documents dealing with the contact between Hawaii & the Gilbert Islands. I have spent some time copying extracts for him. He has been very much better since we came here & we are enjoying ourselves immensely. We have "rented" a car, a Ford V8, which is awfully nice as we are about 3 miles from both town & sea. We soon got used to driving on the right hand side of the road & much to our surprise, when we went for permits to drive, (they are free for 3 months) we merely showed our Auckland licences & were not even given a test.

As far as one can see from just looking

around there are very few Hawaiians left & I am told that no natives, on any of the islands, live in native houses, they have forgotten how to make them! Living here is, I suppose, just like being in America, except for the "atmosphere" fostered here. The town is large & out in the valleys there are huge sugar plantations & on the plateau, acres of pineapples; Harry says that 80% of the world's pineapples are grown in the Hawaiian islands. Unlike Fiji where the Indians grow the sugar, the white men here own everything & only employ the Orientals & Hawaiians.

No news yet of what is to happen to us, there was some talk before we left of sending us to Pitcairn; it was just an idea of Mr Bartons & may not come off.

With love from us both,

Yours affectionately,

Honor.



No 12 of 1936

CULTURE CHANGE AND EDUCATION IN THE GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS

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by

MR. H. E. MAUDE

*Read at Educational  
Conference at Honolulu  
in July, 1936.*

Before commencing with the real subject matter of this talk I feel I had better explain briefly where the Gilbert and Ellice Islands are and who inhabit them.

The Gilbert Group consists of sixteen coral atolls straddling the equator and lying just west of the 180th meridian of longitude, their northern and southern limits being latitude 4° north and 3° south, respectively. The Ellice Group comprises nine smaller but more fertile atolls lying to the south of the Gilberts, between latitudes 5° and 11° south. The Gilbert Group has an outlier in Banaba or Ocean Island, some 250 miles to the westward, which, although a high island, is inhabited by a Gilbertese speaking folk. These Groups are typical examples of the thousand and one atolls of the Pacific, consisting of long ribbons of coral sand, often enclosing lagoons, seldom more than a few hundred yards in width and nowhere more than 15 feet above sea level; fortunately they lie within the doldrums, for a good sized wave would sweep the islands bare. Not even their most ardent admirer could describe these atolls as being anything but barren, so meagre is the deposit of humus that virtually nothing can be grown except the ubiquitous coconut, the pandanus and a coarse edible root similar to inferior taro and known as "babai".

And yet, extraordinary to relate, these arid islands are among the most densely populated areas in the Pacific, on some of them the population exceeding 1,000 to the square mile. The inhabitants, furthermore, are increasing steadily and their fertility is such that, did they not themselves place limits on the number of their children, they would find themselves increasing beyond their meagre means of subsistence. That such a dense population can exist at all is due, of course, to the fact that they are not confined to the land for their food supply, but are able to utilize the resources of the ocean for many miles around each island. According to the census, there are roughly 30,000 Gilbertese and 4,000 Ellice Islanders at the present time, the increase shown between the years 1921 and 1931 being over 4,000.

Without going very deeply into the social structure of the islanders I should mention here that the Gilbertese are included under that loose term Micronesian; they appear to be a blend of three racial groups. The basic stock was apparently of Melanesian or Papuan type and inhabited the islands from time immemorial. Fused with this element we find two comparatively recent immigrant groups, the one coming from that portion of the Malay Archipelago centering round Gilolo and the other a pure Polynesian type from Samoa. By the time when they were first visited by Europeans these three racial groups had blended with each other, resulting in a homogeneous type -- the Gilbertese of today. The Ellice islanders are pure Polyhesians, the greater part having migrated from the valley of Falealili in

Samoa about the year 1525. Blended with this Samoan stock we find, particularly in the northern Ellice, a considerable infiltration of Tongan blood, due to a long succession of raids from the Tongan Archipelago. In former days the Gilbertese were divided into patrilineal, exogamous and totemic clans whose ramifications extended over all except the two northern islands and Banaba. The Government alternated between petty kingdoms and extreme democracies, according to whether there was anyone strong enough by dint of warfare or intrigue, to seize the power. There were, however, two more or less stable kingdoms, in the northern and central islands, and here were found a feudal system with all the paraphernalia of high chiefs, petty chiefs, freemen and slaves. Except in these two kingdoms there was, and still is, strict individual ownership of land and every man and woman in the islands is a landowner. As a consequence, there is no extreme poverty and no necessity for anyone to work as an employee, especially in view of the fact that native taxation is paid in copra and not in money unless he or she so desires it. Furthermore, by the system of "bubuti", a person lacking some article, such as a tub or a dress length, can obtain it by begging it off someone else. By an analogous custom of "tibusu", children can be taken in adoption by those desiring them. All that need be said of the customs of the Ellice islanders is that they were based on those existing in Samoa at the date of the emigration from Falealili.

The two groups were actually discovered, piecemeal, between 1765 and 1827, but until 1830 there was but little contact with the inhabitants. From that date, however, until about 1870 the region became a favourite whaling ground and a great number of ships visited the islands each year. The whalers were accustomed to live ashore when refitting and often while boiling down whale blubber, and, while cruising in the vicinity of the islands they filled vacancies among their crew by shipping the more adventurous natives and at the same time took on board a number of the local women. The whalers brought, too, the first beachcombers, escaped convicts and runaway sailors for the most part, who formed a most turbulent element in the population for many years. The first European to reside with the natives landed about the year 1835, in 1840 there were 7 Europeans living in the islands, while by 1860 there were actually far more Europeans in the two groups than there are to-day.

What then was the effect on the islanders of this initial contact with a foreign culture? As far as we can ascertain at the present day it was surprisingly small. The beachcombers as a whole lowered themselves to the level of the natives, marrying into their families and adopting their customs. The few who were unwilling to become, to all intents and purposes, natives, held themselves as far as possible aloof from them and made no attempt to influence their social life. They introduced, of course, new commodities and tools and thus gradually modified the arts and crafts of the natives, and this process of change was accelerated by the next group of foreigners to visit and reside in the islands, the traders.

The first trading ships visited the islands about 1850 and, within another ten years, we find a Sydney firm operating, with resident European traders established on nearly every island in the two groups. By 1870 there were at least two German firms, besides a British and an American, competing for the local trade and the remaining beachcombers

had transformed themselves into more or less respectable resident traders. As a result, the natives, while they retained their social organization still largely intact, saw the material side of their life considerably changed. New wants, for example, tobacco, liquor, firearms, were carefully fostered, new materials, such as imported timber for canoe building, and new iron and steel tools, were introduced and, in order to obtain these desiderata, a considerable part of the natives' time had to be spent in the production of coconut oil.

To a large extent contemporaneous with the early traders we have the third group to influence the culture of the central Pacific atolls. Between 1860 and 1875 "blackbirders" raided the islands and, in particular, the southern Ellice and the southern Gilberts. The earlier ships transported the people to the Guano islands in South America and as few if any ever returned to their homes. Nothing resulted from this contact except a certain measure of dislocation in the social structure of the islanders. Later vessels, however, took so-called "recruits" to Fiji, Tahiti, and Hawaii, from which places they quite commonly returned, bringing with them a widened outlook and new and foreign ideas disruptive of the indigenous social life. From this period we can date the decay of exogamy and the clan system generally, which had formerly been the all-important focal centre of the native social organization.

The various Pacific Islanders Protection Acts gradually purged the labour trade of its undesirable features, but to the present day, the natives are recruited, under proper safeguards, as indentured labour, to such places as Ocean Island, Fanning, Washington and the Phoenix Islands. Practically every man spends at least two years of his youth as an indentured labourer, and, as can be readily imagined, this period of comparative freedom, away from the social restraints of his village life, has no small effect in broadening his horizon and causing him to question the necessity and utility of the social conventions with which he is surrounded on his return to his village.

We now come to the most potent cause of culture change in the two groups, the missions. Between 1865 and 1869 Samoan missionaries were placed on all the islands of the Ellice Group and the people eagerly embraced the new faith. The suddenness and extent of the change effected in the native life by the mission in the Ellice Islands, was, indeed, astonishing. The accessories of the old religion were razed to the ground, European clothing introduced, old customs, games, amusements prohibited and abandoned, and, almost at a stroke, the native society was changed to a theocracy with the Samoan pastor at the head and with a code of social conduct taken largely from the Bible as interpreted by him. In the Gilbert Islands, although Dr. Hiram Bingham had been residing at Abaiang from as long ago as 1857, progress was far slower, and it was not until the 70's that Christianity could be said to be definitely in the ascendancy. In 1870 the London Missionary Society extended their work to the Southern Gilberts and in 1888 the Roman Catholics commenced operations. At the present day the Northern Gilberts are predominantly Roman Catholic, the Southern islands together with the Ellice Group, Protestant, while there are still several thousand so-called pagans who remain more or less aloof from either mission. In general, it may be said that the missions have not had the iconoclastic effect on the Gilbertese that they had on

the Ellice, mission penetration has been slower, and the people have tended rather to select those aspects of the new religion which appealed to them most, possibly as being most in harmony with their old ideas, while tacitly ignoring other features.

At the same time there can be no question but that the influence of the missions has been an all-powerful one in effecting change in the indigenous culture. In many ways it has been the antithesis of the influence of the beachcomber and trader, for whereas the earlier visitors modified profoundly the material life of the natives, their arts and crafts, the missions left these practically unchanged, concentrating their activities on moulding the social structure of the native life more into conformity with the ideas and ideals of the new religion. Clan exogamy, the marriage system, the various "rites de passage" concerned with birth, marriage, and death, and in particular, those dealing with puberty and adolescence, all went, and at the same time much was discouraged that would be considered comparatively harmless to-day, such as various competitive games, the wearing of wreaths and ornaments, dancing, smoking and the like. Secular power, too, came more and more under the control of the missions, as the little village gerontocracies became accustomed to abiding by the advice of the local pastor or teacher.

Finally, in 1892, the two groups came under the protection of the British Government and European officials were sent to supervise the administration. A simple code of laws was drawn up, based on the earlier mission legislation and the various councils of Old Men were transformed into island councils to administer them. These Councils, under a Native Magistrate, have executive, judicial and a certain amount of legislative power. They work amazingly successfully and with a minimum of friction, and I believe it to be true to say that nowhere in the Pacific Islands, with the exception of the Kingdom of Tonga, is the indigenous native playing such a large and successful part in his own government. Everything from the simplest matter to a charge of murder is dealt with by the natives themselves in their own courts. There is no denying that some of the new laws must have resulted in a severe shock to the islanders, based as they were upon European rather than native ideas, but as they were administered by the people themselves, they adapted the new code to their own culture, tacitly ignoring those considered unsuitable while rigidly enforcing those they thought desirable.

And thus we come to the Gilbertese and Ellice Islander of to-day, a cultural blend in which his original Micronesian or Polynesian heritage has been influenced by western civilization through the beachcomber, trader, blackbirder, missionary and Government official. I have tried, however, to show how very selective this contact has been; like so many of the scattered groups of the Pacific, the main stream of commerce has passed them by and they have had no opportunity of viewing western civilization as a whole. All they know of it is from the very specialized by-products, as it were, of civilization, who visit their islands with a particular end in view whether it happens to be their administration, conversion, exploitation, or even, in the case of the blackbirds, their abduction. The attitude of the Gilbertese towards the outside world is a sensible one, he recognizes the existence of foreigners and the fact that they differ from him in many respects, but he stoutly maintains his own group to be the best

place for the Gilbertese and, what is probably true enough, his own cultural synthesis to be the best possible for his peculiar circumstances and environment. He evinces little if any curiosity in the customs and goings-on of the outside world, which he will never see, and, as a natural consequence of his isolation, is inclined to be rather smug at times and contented with things as they are in his own little sphere. The Ellice islanders differ to a certain extent from the Gilbertese in that they have a mecca, Samoa, situated, comparatively speaking, in the maelstrom of civilized life. From Samoa come new fashions and new ideas, which profoundly affect the lives of those whom the Samoans no doubt consider their rather gauche country cousins.

At the same time, while these Central Pacific atolls lie still sheltered from the full blast of modern civilization, yet the inhabitants have every opportunity of leading a perfectly full life within the limits set by their village and island. Mention has already been made of the exceptional share taken by natives in the government of the islands, and those politically minded can always strive to become village police, village councillors, or aspire to one of the more senior positions in the local administration, eventually perhaps becoming magistrate of the island, a post which has very considerable responsibilities indeed. For those who take an especial interest in church work there are always many positions available, in a village--deacons, members of the church council and, for those willing to undergo training, village pastorates.

During recent years the more commercially gifted have formed native co-operative societies, collecting and marketing the copra of the members and retailing trade goods in exchange. These societies, though it must be confessed that they have not so far made fortunes for their members, have yet succeeded in ousting the trader or middle-man from nearly every island in the two groups, and the control of their activities offers a magnificent field for the energy of the villager who can, with comparative ease, get himself elected on one or more of the various committees connected with each society.

The above are a few ways only in which an islander can satisfy his ambitions and lead a life useful to the community. Many more could be detailed--for those wishing to earn money, which is not nearly such a common desire with the native as with us, there are opportunities as indentured labourers, for the clerical type there are positions with the local government as well as the co-operative society and, of course, there are always the innumerable activities of the village itself, fishing, canoe building, house building, cultivation, etc., etc. all of which offer unlimited scope for specialisation and the acquisition of skill.

Here then is the human setting in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands today. The islander lives sheltered largely from modern civilization and its problems, yet leading a happy and full life, busy in the first place with the primal interests of his own immediate family group, the eternal problems of birth, marriage and death, but at the same time finding a perfectly satisfying field for his energies and ambitions in the activities of his village and island. The village, with its arts, occupations and social life is the all important focal centre of the islander and, as a consequence, education there must be based on a sympathetic understanding of village problems and needs.

Island life is only an extension of village life and in no way differs from it- in fact on many islands there is only the one village. With few exceptions, the native has no interest in life or problems beyond the horizon of his island, and why should he, since he knows that he will never come face to face with them?

We now come to a consideration of the way in which education in the Colony has developed in response to the needs of the islanders. I'm afraid there is no time for a detailed historical account of the development of local education though it may be necessary to show in passing the way in which the present system has grown up. Particularly during early years native education in the two groups has been essentially connected with the missions, and has expanded side by side with the expansion of other mission activities. The Roman Catholic mission has not extended its work to the two southernmost Gilbert Islands or the Ellice Group but, apart from this, both the Protestants and Roman Catholics have a church, and attached to the church a school, in practically every village throughout the islands. In the Gilbert islands, with a population of 30,000, there are 200 of these village schools. In the Ellice Group, with 4,000 people, there are nine. By law every boy or girl between the ages of six and sixteen, has to attend one of these mission schools. The teachers in charge have at the same time spiritual duties to perform, the Protestants being invariably the pastors of the local church while the Roman Catholics have analogous functions within their own organisation.

Apart from the village schools the London Missionary Society has two central establishments at Beru and Abaiang respectively containing boarding schools for boys and girls, and a training school for pastors. They have also three intermediate schools where scholars are prepared for the central establishments. The Roman Catholics have a boarding school for married teachers at Abemama and a seminary for preparing youths for the priesthood on Abaiang. They have also several small convents for elder girls and three intermediate boarding schools for boys. In the Ellice Group there is a boarding school for boys at Vaitupu, the former girls' boarding school at Funafuti having been given up several years ago.

In 1898, only six years after the coming of the government, secular schools were started on the five central islands under the control of the local native governments. These schools were a success but were felt to duplicate the work of the mission schools then commencing in the central Gilberts and the scheme was abandoned. It was not until 1913 that the government again took a practical interest in education by voting the sum of £275 to mission schools and printing presses. This sum was made an annual payment and increased to £500 in 1917.

A government Education Department was set up in 1920 and a central school, now known as the King George V. school, was started on Tarawa island, concerned primarily with the education of boys intended for government appointments. A similar boarding establishment was formed on Vaitupu, in the Ellice Group, assisted by generous gifts from the Ellice Islanders, themselves. There is

also a government day school for boys on Ocean Island supported by local native funds. All three government schools were until recently under the control of European Headmasters, but the Ellice Islands school is now staffed entirely by natives. There are two other schools in the Colony that should be mentioned here- a Roman Catholic boarding school practically confined to half-caste children, in Butaritari in the Gilbert Group, and a small school for European children on Ocean Island.

The teaching given in the village schools is of course extremely elementary and does not pretend to go beyond the lower primary standard. The bias throughout is religious and moral, for the breakdown in the native social organisation resulted in a corresponding collapse in the traditional system of character training. Sanctions could no longer be enforced and the general tone of morality declined until an attempt was made to arrest it by missionary work. The main aim of the schools is to give a good grounding in reading and writing the vernacular, the ability to do simple sums in arithmetic and a knowledge of the fundamentals of Christianity and Christian ethics. A certain amount of geography and elementary hygiene is also taught in most schools.

It was long thought by the government that, as stated in the Annual Report of the Colony for 1912, the teaching given by the missions in village schools, "though morally unquestionable, was deficient in utility". It was felt that it was out of the question for the government to establish its own system of schools in competition with the missions, if only for financial reasons, and that the best way in which the village schools could be improved would be by improving the teachers themselves. The school teachers in the Gilbert Islands, with three exceptions, were all Gilbertese, who had been selected from the pick of the pupils at the various village schools, and taken to the resident higher training centres, where they went through a further three year teacher-training course under European guidance. The teachers in the Ellice Islands are mostly Samoans and have received their education at the Malua School in Samoa.

Some years after the formation of the government Education Department it was arranged with the missions that selected batches of teachers should be sent each year to the King George V School for further training and since 1930 ten teachers yearly have received instruction in teaching methods, class organisation and use of syllabus, together with a refresher course in general knowledge. On completion of their course, these teachers are posted to what are known as "improved village schools", which are inspected annually by the Government Education Department. The government gives grants for providing the necessary equipment for all improved village schools and for the replenishment of writing materials etc. At the same time an annual efficiency grant is made to each improved school, as a result of the annual inspection. The maximum sum which each school can obtain is £20, half of the marks being awarded on the assessed efficiency of the pupils and half on that of the teacher.

A syllabus has been drawn up by the government, with the co-operation of the missions, for a unified system of instruction for

use in these improved schools, the subjects now being taught including Language, by which is meant, in the majority of schools, the vernacular, though English is included as an optional subject to be taught where possible, Arithmetic, Religious Instruction and Character Training, physical training, hygiene, drawing and hand-work, nature study and agriculture, singing, history and civics, and geography. A special emphasis is laid on the development of basic morality and physical well-being, while every effort is made to use such indigenous material as is compatible with Christian principles. It is recognised that, since the natives' own system of moral and physical instruction has fallen to pieces through contact with our culture, we are under an obligation to replace it with one more suited to the changed circumstances of today.

In general it may be said that the government teacher training scheme has, in actual practice, proved a success. Though on financial and other grounds it has been found necessary to abandon the scheme there are at present 1,200 children, representing 25% of the school children of the Gilbert Islands, being taught in the new improved schools under the government trained teachers. According to the Superintendent of Education's reports these schools are well run and the instruction given is efficient and well suited to the needs of the future villagers. I think I should mention here that the grounds for abandoning the teacher-training scheme are not entirely financial but are partly due to the Roman Catholic mission having, for various reasons, withdrawn from the scheme. It was felt that it was useless to carry on with the project with the co-operation of the Protestant mission only. At the present time we are endeavouring to find a new scheme likely to produce at any rate as good results as the old, one which will be acceptable to both missions and at the same time lie within the bounds of financial possibility.

Before concluding I would like to touch briefly on a few special points connected with educational problems in the Gilbert and Ellice Groups, as it is possible that similar conditions and problems will be met with elsewhere in the more remote parts of the Pacific. In the first place one must, I think, be continually on guard lest the native in these isolated groups be educated beyond his needs and beyond all possibility of utilising the knowledge gained while at school. The child comes from a village environment and to that environment he must return and it is useless, even a positive source of danger to himself, to provide him with a fund of ideas and knowledge which he will have no chance to apply in his village life. The islander has, as I have endeavoured to show, only a very selective contact with modern civilization and the possibility that the islanders will ever come into direct contact with European culture is so remote as to be not worth considering. There is no native emigration to places outside the Colony and no possibility of Europeans coming to reside inside it, since no European may purchase land or even rent more than 5 acres on any one island. Since, then, there is no possibility of a native having to pit his brains in competition with members of a higher culture there is no need to train him to be able to do so. It is my experience that those natives who have been trained beyond the needs of village life are out of harmony with their environment, and discontented and unhappy when, for some reason or other, they are compelled to reside permanently in the villages from which they



originally came. The syllabus of education as taught by the missions in the improved village schools is thus suited to the needs of 99% of the Gilbert and Ellice Islanders, since throughout it has been carefully adapted to native needs, mentality and environment.

In these small atolls there is an almost absolute absence of white collar jobs or indeed of any openings for natives educated beyond the primary standard. There are, however, a few positions in the subordinate staff of the Colony government, with the various native governments, with trading firms, and to proceed, as medical students, to the Central Medical School in Fiji. To fill these vacancies the government founded, in 1922, the King George V School on Tarawa Island. This institution, consisting of from 30 to 90 boarders, is run as far as practicable on the lines of an English public school. There are four classes, the attainment of Class IV being that of fifth year groups in European schools. A very fine type of youth graduates from this school and one who, with a little additional training, is capable of holding the highest positions in the Native Government. As a rule, however, only sufficient numbers are trained to fill anticipated vacancies and keep a small reserve of educated youths for unforeseen contingencies.

The medium of instruction in all schools in the Gilbert Islands, except the senior classes of King George V School and the Roman Catholic School at Butaritari, is the vernacular, Gilbertese. In the Ellice Islands all school children are taught in Samoan, except those at the government school at Vaitupu, where the Ellice Island dialect is the medium of instruction. At a very few village schools English is taught as a special subject but the instruction is so elementary that few children acquire more than the ability to repeat a few phrases. Here, in these remote islands, the arguments in favour of the teaching of English are at their weakest. The reasons usually advanced are that a knowledge of English will facilitate intercourse with Europeans and at the same time provide a key to literature. The first argument has little validity in the Gilbert and Ellice groups where the native will seldom, if ever, see a European other than a member of the limited group who live among them more or less permanently, and among these residents, there are very few who are unable to speak the vernacular. As to the second argument, my experience is that a native with a knowledge of English seldom develops a taste for reading good European literature and that those few who do are not thereby assisted to become contented members of the native society to which they belong. There is, actually, a fairly good literature published in Gilbertese and it would appear, for the present at any rate, to be more important to increase and improve the range of vernacular literature than to extend the teaching of a new language. In the Ellice Islands there is more excuse for using Samoan as the medium of instruction, owing to the absence of a literature in the Ellice Islands dialect.

A point in which the Gilbert and Ellice Islands possibly differ from most other areas is that it is surprisingly difficult to give any really useful practical instruction to the native along the lines of manual or agricultural training. As a result of generations of struggle against a hostile and barren environment

the islander has learnt to take every possible advantage of the scanty resources at his command and there is very little that we can teach him with regard to canoe building or sailing, fishing, house building, coconut culture, etc., that will be an improvement on the technique he has evolved for himself. The arts and crafts of daily life are not taught at school but are learnt from members of the family or recognised experts living in the village and while this continues to be the case, school instruction in these subjects would largely be a duplication, and possibly an inferior one, of what the child will inevitably learn at home.

Early contact with whalers, beachcombers and traders resulted in a fair number of half-castes but, as a general rule, these have tended to marry into the native community and identify themselves with native life. At the present time there are only a few mixed bloods who aspire to European status and the vast majority of these are educated at the Catholic school on Butaritari, where the educational syllabus is specially adapted to their needs. The lot of the half-caste who divorces himself from the native community is a difficult one in these islands as, owing to the scarcity of vocations, he is hard put to maintain anything like a European standard of living.

Speaking generally I think I shall not be far wrong in saying that educational policy in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands has been carefully adapted to local needs with a clear recognition of the problems peculiar to the local environment. The underlying idea has been not to prevent or hinder culture change, which is recognised as inevitable, nor yet to hasten the process of transition, but rather to provide the native with an education which will enable him to make a successful adaptation to any changes that may occur in island conditions and at the same time live a useful and contented life.

No. 13 7/1936

Atherton House,  
University Campus.  
Honolulu.

19<sup>th</sup> August, 1936.

Dearest Lady Maude,

We were glad to hear that you + Sir Walter had been to visit Mary in the new house, I hope you will be able to send us some snapshots as we would like to see what it looks like.

We leave here tomorrow, much to our regret as we have had a wonderful holiday here + enjoyed our stay so much. The climate is really lovely, we have had very few muggy days + the rest of the time it has been pleasantly hot. We went for a last drive round the island on Sunday after church + took snapshots. A week ago Harry distinguished himself by smashing the car; we met a huge lorry at a blind crossroads, the road the lorry came along was nothing but a dirt track + not a place where you would expect to meet anything. I heard the thing coming just before we met it + I fainted quietly thinking it was all up with us so I didn't see or feel the collision. The front of the car was very badly smashed, Harry got off with one little cut but I got badly bruised on my right leg + arm + a little bruise on my head + spent

one day in bed. We were fully insured fortunately & we were given another car which I drove home. I gather that lots of people go tearing across that place & yet we are only the second to have an accident there.

The Sunday before the accident we all had a picnic supper at the other side of the island, we had a lovely bathe beforehand in the breakers but poor Mr Mayhew got knocked over by a wave & lost all his false teeth, wasn't it dreadful? We played ball with a very hard ball & I hurt my left index finger rather badly by bungling a catch & getting the ball smack on the tip of my finger. It swelled up at the joint & was very painful & of course I missed the last precious week of Spanish Guitar lessons.

We had the British Consul, Mr Tuson, & Mrs Tuson to dinner here one night, I was afraid the party would be rather a flop as most people had left by the time the Tusons could come but everyone rallied round & there were 18 left. We danced a bit afterwards & then played grab-smaps & up Jenkins & the evening was quite a success. One day we went out in an outrigger canoe to shoot the surf & it was most thrilling, I'm sure the canoe travels at 50 miles an hour once the wave has got it. The evening of the same day we went with a party to see midget cars racing, goodness what a din there was & it beats me why the cars

cars don't crash every time instead of only occasionally! Apparently it is most unusual for anyone to get hurt & yet they tear round a small course with no banking at the corners & skid so much they turn right round. I'm glad I've seen them but I wouldn't make a habit of watching them.

We have both laid in a stock of cool shoes here, there is a wonderful variety of tropical clothing here & the American shoes are a good shape. I think Muriel & Joan even could find narrow enough shoes & they fit beautifully. There have been a number of sales here & we have bought lovely socks for Harry at 4 p/s. a dollar (about 1/5 each) jackets 25/-, shirts, sports wear, 4/- & a wardrobe suitcase for under £2-10-0. I wanted a "lahala" hat, they are made of the pandanus but bleached, very wide brimmed, beautifully blocked but heavy & hot & cost, oh! my! £2-10-0! Needless to say I haven't got one. The prices they charge here for native things are fantastic; 15/- for things I'd give my women 4/- for.

Nothing has been decided yet about Zanzibar, we are to have 5 days in Suva on our way through. We transfer to another ship there. I shall be glad when it's settled.

Ever so much love from us both  
 Your loving Honor.

Charges to pay

\_\_\_\_\_ s. \_\_\_\_\_ d.

RECEIVED

# POST OFFICE TELEGRAM



No. 6

OFFICE STAMP



Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

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**12**

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From +++ 12 CCC 1220 7 TH AUCKLANDNEWZEALAND 11

= LC LADY MAUDE GUERNSEY =

TRANSFERRED ZANZIBAR LEAVING SYDNEY NARKUNDA NINETEENTH

= HARRY +++++

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form and, if possible, the envelope.

B or C

15 of 1936

30 OCT. 1936

M.V. Zsippingo.

Indian Ocean,

17<sup>th</sup> October, 1936.

Dearest Lady Maude,

I'm afraid you must be wondering what on earth has happened to us, it is such a long time since I wrote but we have been so miserable that I kept on putting off writing until we felt more cheerful. You will have received our telegram about the transfer to Zanzibar but you must surely wonder what induced Harry to accept it so I had better begin the story from the time we arrived in Fiji on the return journey.

You may remember that the Fiji doctors put a clause in their report recommending that Harry should not return to the Gilberts for a year. When we got back to Fiji, determined to refuse the transfer as Harry was awfully well & anxious to go back we were met by Macpherson & D<sup>r</sup> Pearce with stories of M<sup>r</sup> Barton's fury when he heard that Harry had not accepted the transfer at once. They said that he threatened to send an adverse report to the Colonial Office & certainly would not give him a temporary job in Fiji. They then rushed him up to see M<sup>r</sup> Barton telling him on no account to let him know he didn't want to go to Zanzibar. Well, M<sup>r</sup> Barton was

very nice apparently, but whether he would have been if Harry had said he wished to refuse the offer I don't know. Anyhow, as presumably we couldn't return to the G. + E. because of the doctors + nothing else was offered what could we do?

I unfortunately went down almost immediately with the most awful 'flu cold I've had for years + retired to bed. Everyone told me that Harry should go to Zanzibar + I wasn't at all sure that he would last out in the Gilberts + now he feels that I let him down horribly by not insisting on going back. The result of the whole thing was that he accepted, kicking the whole time + Mr<sup>s</sup> Barton told me he was very foolish, for wanting to go back of course.

I realise now that he should have gone back to the Gilberts as he certainly won't be happy again until he is there but I don't think he realised himself just how much it means to him. He has written a long letter to the Colonial Office explaining the position but I don't know whether they will allow us to go back. If only we had a little influence I'm sure it could be done. His work there is important + no one else can possibly do it. Ete, who might have helped a new man is dead. He died of dysentery following measles which they seem to have let loose in the G. + E. in the most callous way.



It is no use my pretending that I think Harry will eventually settle down in Zanzibar, or anywhere out of the Pacific, the last two months of misery have quite convinced me that he won't. If the government won't send him back either when the year is up or after one tour of service in Zanzibar, (two years) I am sure he will resign & go into anthropology. Dr Elkin, of Sydney University has more or less offered him a job & he was also offered a grant to study in America. If he does this I expect we shall go to Cambridge so that he can get his Ph.D. I hope very much that you won't mind this idea, I'm sure you wouldn't if you had seen him, as I have, for the past 2 months, sometimes I've felt I just couldn't bear to stay with him another moment he was so miserable & furious with the Fiji people, especially Mac, who did put his foot in it, & as I had been persuaded by him & others, of course he blames me too.

I do think it was too bad of the doctors this time to pass him as fit for a malarial country when a short time before they had said he needed a year to regain strength before returning to the G + E. where, incidentally, there are no diseases. I'm convinced that Mac was scared of Barton because he admitted that when he first heard he thought it

quite unsuitable for Harry.

All Harry's studying on the Gilberts is entirely wasted now & the sight of all our South Sea books merely drives him to despair, he sits staring ahead of him for hours, thinking of the islands I know, & nothing I can do seems to help. The idea of starting all over again with a new language, new rules & regulations & I suppose law, when he had just mastered those of the Gilbert islands & was looking forward to going straight ahead is certainly depressing.

Zanzibar, apparently, is well known for its social life & the amount of sport there; it has the oldest club in East Africa I believe & if we manage to live on our salary we shall be lucky. Harry of course, will be like a fish out of water & I can see there will be constant friction. However, we shall soon know the worst as we arrive there the day after tomorrow. When Harry first joined the Colonial Service they said they were afraid he would find it difficult to toe the line, I see now how true that is, he will kick against the pricks. He says he knew in Fiji that it would be a mistake to come here but unfortunately hadn't the strength of mind to stand out against everyone, or nearly everyone. Apparently they told him it wasn't a fair thing to expect me to go back to the islands where he

might, + probably would, get ill again + that I needed the company of other white women. They little knew that they were letting me in for a far worse time this way, for how can I be happy when he is miserable +, perhaps with some reason, blames me for the mess we are in.

I should like to know your, + Sir Walter's, views on his leaving the Govt: if they won't send us back. I am in favour of it now as he really hasn't the temperament for a man who is liable to be sent hither + thither at a moment's notice + I'm sure he would be very happy working in anthropology; he is, first + foremost, a student + nothing will alter him.

We had just a week in Auckland on our way through, I wasted 3 days of it as the 'flu had reached my chest by that time. The Tasman Sea, notorious for its bad weather, treated us very well + I only spent one day in my bunk. We had our usual four days in Sydney but this time, having a few friends saw something of the place. I enclose snaps of the bridge + some taken in the Koola Park where we were driven by Miss Wedgwood. We went over the University + had lunch there with Dr Elkin, Miss Wedgwood + Mary Coelice. One afternoon we went for a charabanc drive, round the bays, which I thought disappointing; some must have been pretty but you never saw such

hideous houses as they have put up, all jammed together. We went to "Yes, Madam", which was distinctly coarse in parts but extraordinarily funny + at any rate took Harry's mind off his misfortunes for a short time.

At Colombo we had four clear days so we hired a car, the cheapest yet, £1 per day + go as far as you like. We motored 360 miles in three days which was pretty good considering that the roads are very narrow + only about 50 miles of our trip was clear of villages + consequent pedestrians, animals + children all over the road. The first day we went up into the hills to Bandaraawela, over 4,000 ft. where the air was simply lovely. The second day, a long one with 160 miles to do before the next hotel, was down into the plains again through a forest + then along the coast to Galle. And the third day took us back to Colombo, only 72 miles but awfully trying as we had to hoot continuously + as there was an election on the traffic was awful. Coming down from the hills we had the loveliest views I've ever seen.

This is an awfully nice ship + we have had absolutely perfect weather. There are only 11 passengers but all very nice.

Please look at my small snaps through a magnifying glass, it makes the perspective better.

With much love from us both.

Your loving,

Honor

16 9 1936

Zanzibar

25<sup>th</sup> October, 1936

Dearest Lady Maude,

We leave here for the island of Pemba tomorrow + are to stay there for three months at least, to learn the language. They don't have interpreters here so a man is useless until he knows Swahili. We find that the transfer is in no way promotion, the Zanzibar Govt. asked for a Cadet, so Harry begins again at the bottom with what amounts to a 7 years handicap + has to pass the law exams once again as well as language. We stick at £600, which is £100 less than the A+E counting our consolidated travelling allowance, until he has passed Higher Swahili, which will take him at least 2 years.

Harry still feels that he cannot settle down here, he has always hated the idea of going to Africa + coming here has not altered his views. He is dead against my staying here even if he eventually has to as he says he could keep out of things + that if I stay I shall have a miserable time either trying to make him be sociable or trying to get out of going to various parties.

We have been staying with the Chief Secretary + his wife, they are both very nice + have drawn us

pretty well all over the island I should think. They have a distinctly ramshackle old car but <sup>it</sup> usually gets us there. However, to-day we, + a M<sup>r</sup> Hendry, were to go out to the McElderey's (C.S.) seaside cottage, for lunch. They went out for the week-end but left us here + sent the car for us. We started half an hour late owing to a flat tyre + when about two thirds there had a really good puncture + finished the journey in a native bus.

The climate at present is very good, cooler than here most of the time but the hot weather is due now + lasts 6 months. I have collected 5 servants which I am told are necessary, the cook is a bit ancient + wanted much too high wages, 70/- a month, he is coming for a month at 60/- but I expect I shall have trouble with him, however, I shall know a bit more about the place by then. We are to have a flat in Pemba + may borrow crockery etc: from the S. S. rest house for the time being.

Would you send me some English stamps so that I can send more than one letter by the air mail? The idea being that I'd pay you for them + my letters can be extracted from the air mail letter + posted on. I enclose one for Mother, would you please send it on? Also please send Harry a

black evening bow tie as soon as you can, he has  
5 with him but all have gone rotten, the rest  
are still on the way from the Gilberts.

Very many thanks for your letter, it is the  
only one we have had so far. I was very sorry  
to hear about Mr<sup>s</sup> Williams, very bad luck to get  
pneumonia after taking the trouble to get out of  
England for the bad months. We must have  
missed a letter as we don't know what horse Aunt  
Minnie has bought.

I'll let you know about duty etc: later, I  
think everything is dutiable, what's more you pay  
duty on the postage too!

With much love to you all from us both,

Yours loving,

Honor

P.S. Harry will write soon.

14 NOV 1938

Wete,

Pomba,

4<sup>th</sup> November, 1934.

Dearest Lady Maude,

Your second letter arrived yesterday & was received with much joy, especially as I haven't heard from Mother or Ruby yet.

I am very sorry you are still worried about Muriel - what is happening about Jo? I suppose she has left school, & how is Mona progressing? I haven't written to Mabel or Maude, I must do so as there might be a chance of seeing something of them. I'm afraid nothing will induce Harry to go to Africa but they might take a trip up here or I might go down by myself. I suppose you will all be disappointed that we do not like the move here nor the life now that we have seen it. There are absolutely no interests such as there were in the islands & I don't think any European could make any impression on these people in fifty years. Do you know they actually haven't educated them to the extent of realising that mosquitoes give them



fever & no natives have mosquito nets - At present I can see nothing that I could interest myself in, I can't even help in Harry's work as it is all routine stuff, inspections etc. If the climate & conditions were better I'd think seriously of adopting an infant but in any case I don't think Harry will stay here.

On Saturday Harry was sent off to make a surprise visit at two post offices down the island so I went with him. Chake chake, the first & largest town is 19 miles away & there were three European families there whom I visited whilst Harry was busy. Then we went on another 19 miles or so to M'kwambe, the prettiest of the three towns I thought, & we didn't get back until 6 p.m. Yesterday M<sup>rs</sup> Pakenham, who came out in 1929, took us for a very nice country walk & we had dinner with him as our cook has gone sick already & we have sent him to hospital with suspected dysentery. Fever is pretty bad over here & there is black-water fever as well as malaria. We are taking 5 grains of quinine every evening, I have mosquito

boots up to my thighs and I have a mosquito campaign first thing every morning & so far I don't think we have been bitten very much. I hate the quinine it makes my head ache.

We have a ground floor flat here which is very public & we are all shoved so close together that everyone knows what everyone else is doing. Nobody had made any attempt to see that the place was habitable with the result that we have a dreadful stove, half the top is missing & cooking very difficult & extremely smoky, the kitchen walls are black. No one seems to be in the least anxious to help with information as to how things are done here or where to get various commodities.

All our Christmas presents are marvellously useful, do you remember the wooden table mats you gave us? Unpacking has been rather fun as I had forgotten half the things. You ask what we would like this Christmas, may we tell you later as it all depends on what we are going to do, we hope to hear from the Colonial Office before very long.

I have finished the cushion covers you gave me + have found enough pillows to put inside them + they are lovely. I have material for one more but no wool, so could you please send me the following Beehive Tapestry wool?

2 green 756 1 orange 604 1, lemon 656  
 2 oatmeal 797 1 dark blue 665 1 fuchsia 705  
 also 1 skein No. 688, I think a buff colour, I have run out but may have missed the ticket.

Our little refrigerator is going beautifully + so easy to run, it would have been marvellous in the Gilberts.

With much love from us both.

Your loving,

Honor

Wete,

Pemba.

24/11/36.

Dearest Lady Maude,

Harry had a letter from Maudie last week in which she said that Muriel was coming out + to-day your letter has arrived saying that she sails, or rather sailed, on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Maudie suggested their coming here but I told her I was afraid it would be difficult as we are not in Zanzibar. The Government vessel is the only ship that comes here & as we have very cramped quarters & none of our effects they would have to bring camp-beds, linen + cutlery. As we are "extra" people at the moment we are in the Rest House which normally could be used for an overflow of visitors I suppose but later on when Packerham goes I hope we can go into his flat which, though identical in size to ours is further along the road & the last house & therefore more private.

All our mail arrived last week from the Gilberts, Harry counted 260 papers, packages & letters! Some nearly two years old. We were glad to hear you had had Alick. We think Eyle's poems very good indeed, how does she get on at school?

Your last letter is dated 27/10/36 & you had had no letter but must surely have received one soon after as I posted air mail in Mombasa on the 19<sup>th</sup> & it is supposed to take a week only. You will have heard that we are very much out of the town, we too had hoped the transfer meant staying in Zanzibar, preferably in the Secretariat. They call this work administration but I don't think they can know the meaning of the word. Tomorrow we go on "safari" for 6 days, first of all to a place in the bush with one of the doctors. We are to stay in an Arab house but the doctor says he is afraid it will be rather hot & humid as it is so shut-in. We stay with him only two days & then go on by ourselves to the southernmost village, M'kwani, about 40 miles from here. There we stay in the rest house & with luck get a few baths, we can't bathe up here at all.

This week I have been working at "étimé-fiquiss" again & have nearly completed another "part". Before that I spent a whole week struggling with settee & sofa-covers. The boys got a man who said he <sup>could</sup> make them but all he did was to hack my nice material, dirty it on his horrid mud floor & then produce a thing which wouldn't go on! It was awful & I had to undo every bit & scheme

plot until I managed to remake everything & only patched the back of the settee but it is still only pinned or tacked as I haven't a machine yet & didn't dare trust them to the man again.

As far as I can see half the men here are ex-Army Officers & the other half are army types, they & Harry being as different as chalk & cheese. He is very unhappy, the work he loathes & Swahili he says he can't learn in a life-time; we don't get any increments until he does either. I can't persuade him to write to his father, he says he will write when he knows his father's views on the transfer & can answer his questions.

We have discovered a place about 20 minutes walk from here where there is a colony of small monkeys. We go there quite often & hope in time to get some snaps of them. At present they peep at us from the trees & they look so sweet with their little black faces surrounded with whitish fur on a background of foliage.

I shall write by Air Mail next week for Christmas, & I expect it will arrive first.

With much love from

Honor

1936

Penha.

2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1936.

Dearest Lady Maude,

I received your letter enclosing the letter from Uncle Arthur & Harry had his father's air mail letter, thank you both very much. Last week I posted a letter to you by ordinary mail & will do the same next week & will give up air mail except for special occasions. Harry is sure to write air mail next week, to his father as he was very glad to get his letter which has made some impression on him - I am so relieved as I did not seem able to manage him at all & was miserable. In fairness to Harry I must say that his chief grievance was that he had a duty to the Culberts & should not have been forced to let them down & also that the doctors were not honest, with which I rather agree as I think they were afraid of disagreeing with Mr. Barton or didn't realise that malaria & blackwater are quite definitely bad here.

About Christmas presents, I think I should like most of all some extra dishes for my Electrolux Refrigerator. I'm afraid you may have to send to the Electrolux people but I suppose the Guernsey

agents would get them. I've no idea how much they are but I would like one large + two small glass dishes if they are not too expensive, also an extra lid for a small one as one of mine got broken.

There are two things I know Harry wants, get you ~~the~~ <sup>names of</sup> both + you can choose. Both come from:-

Emile Grimshaw + Son., 54-55, Pall Mall, W.1. They say post free. 1. E.G. Footrest @ 5/- 2. E.G. Quilted Stand @ 13/6.

I gather you + Sir Walter will be alone this Christmas? Where is Mona now?

I am sending Mother the first batch of what I hope will be a series of snapshots of our journey from Honolulu to Zanzibar. I am using the pages of a snap-shot book so when you have all seen them will you send them back to Mother so that she can complete the book eventually? The first lot are Ceylon.

Most of last week we were out on a "safari" with D<sup>r</sup> Treeth, he was going out + suggested we should accompany him which was a good introduction for us into the mystic of a "safari". At this time of year there isn't so much risk of malaria so most of the travelling is done before February. I gather that malaria is bad in the cool, wet seasons.



February or March until July or August I think. Dr  
 Tooth was asked to send in plans for making the European  
 officials houses mosquito proof as there was so much  
 malaria + black-water + he has just heard that they  
 have turned down his scheme so I don't know what  
 will happen. I understand that blackwater fever  
 is most prevalent at M'Kwani + very soon there will  
 be a family there with four small children + no  
 attempt made to keep away mosquitoes.

Well, we left here last Wednesday about 3:30 p.m. by  
 car, + drove about 24 miles. Here, to our dismay we  
 found our lorry, still loaded up + no porters to be seen.  
 We were told that the lorry was late, the porters got  
 fed up + went home as it was nearly time to break  
 their fast. We are in the midst of "Ramazan", a month  
 during which they neither eat nor drink from sun-  
 rise to sunset. It was nearly 5 o'clock by this time  
 and we had over an hour's walk before us so we  
 collected our mosquito boots + quinine + set forth, leaving  
 the luggage to be fetched later. The path in places  
 was awfully rough + steep but we arrived at our  
 destination, Ruzini, soon after 6 o'clock. The doctor  
 had been promised an Arab's house with several  
 rooms + we had rather a rude shock when we

were shown a thatched house with mud walls containing one very small room with two doors & a larger room with one door & no windows anywhere. I had visions of all kinds of creepy crawlies in the mud walls & floor but actually only killed a small centipede & we didn't pick up any bugs. Our luggage, including dinner & beds did not arrive until long after 9 o'clock & in the meantime we sat drinking coconuts & doing "times" cross-words by the light of a couple of hurricane lanterns & with an audience of villagers. We eventually dined & went to bed & by the time we left were quite attached to our mud house. The first day we walked miles & saw a number of odd houses & villages & some ruins. The second day we had donkeys & rode down to the sea in the hopes of a bath but the tide was low. I was unlucky about my donkey as he hadn't got a saddle, none of them had stirrups, & after half an hour was so sore I had to get off & walk, the two men rode all the way & no doubt felt superior but I got my own back later. The doctor told me to try his donkey going back but it wouldn't let me mount so I had Harry's & he rode mine. Very soon he was looking unhappy & agreed it was very painful riding but I laughed heartily & rode all the way home in comfort! Nevertheless I still sit

down carefully on hard chairs. My donkey also had a habit of "hee-hawing" at the slightest provocation, so much so that even the boys + our retinue of children laughed. We wandered round the village + talked to the natives + were lucky enough to come across a woman plaiting a girl's hair, in rows on the top of her head giving the effect of a marcel wave. On Saturday we went on to M'Koani for two nights, we walked back to the road where a car picked us up, there we stayed in the Rest House under fairly civilized conditions. I had no idea donkeys made so much noise nor that it was so heart-rending, in Pujini + M'Koani it was awful + we felt like copping in sympathy!

Thank you very much for all the papers which are coming regularly + also the magazines.

With much love from  
Yours lovingly,

Honor.

P.S. Didn't you get your pearls in Zambezi + can you remember where? Was it Mooloo?

Wete,

Pemba.

8<sup>th</sup> December, 1936.

Dearest Lady Maude,

Your letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> November arrived to-day. I am glad to say that Harry is a different person since he received his father's letter & says that now that he has come back to his senses he can't think what possessed him to go to such extremes. I am not suggesting that either of us is any less attached to the islands, where our hearts still lie, but that Harry's changed attitude makes life here bearable & even enjoyable & the islands can now be discussed without fear of recriminations.

Later A very long telegram arrived as I was writing & was decoded in fear & trepidation. However it is rather nice & more than we deserve. Harry applied last August for the post of Director of Education, Seychelles in the hope that we could go there rather than here. Mr<sup>r</sup> Mayhew suggested it & backed him & now apparently the selection is to be made & they want to know if he wishes to withdraw or not. The telegram states that at this stage they cannot possibly give any opinion as to whether he will be allowed to return to the Gilberts eventually. We are in rather a quandary & Harry is hoping to go to Zanzibar to get Mr<sup>r</sup> McEdeery's advice.

If Harry withdraws his application & we are not allowed to return to the G.E. we are doomed to transfer eventually to Africa & almost certainly to get fever sooner or later. If he stands for selection & is chosen for the Seychelles it is good-bye to the Lands Commission which the natives need so badly but a good climate & conditions for ourselves, a salary of £600 to £700 (but no quarters but living there is cheap) and a choice of returning to administration after some time if he desires it. We do not want to give up all hope of doing the lands in a year or two but on the other hand do not want to be landed here if we are not allowed back when we have an excellent chance of getting a healthy place like the Seychelles.

Our troubles seem very trivial compared with the crisis in the affairs of the Empire according to this week's wireless news about the King's proposed marriage. We are longing for more news but presume he has not abdicated as we have heard nothing. I am looking forward to hearing about it from you, I can't believe the King would do anything to jeopardise the unity of the Empire & such a marriage surely would do so. It all sounds too dreadful & what must other countries think?

I return most of the stamps you sent me as I don't think my idea works, Mother says she had

to pay on one Air Mail letter & I'm afraid you may have had to too so I am only using it for very special occasions. I am glad Jo is going to Switzerland & I think Mary & Arthur are bricks to take the Sayer family under their care like that. Many thanks for the details about Aunt M.'s house, sounds a big proposition. Another letter came back from the Gilberts, written at the beginning of M<sup>rs</sup> William's illness. Also a budget of letters from the Gilberts, from both natives & European, farewell letters & rather distressing & made me sad for a time. Luckily enough I had a post-card from M<sup>rs</sup> Grimble yesterday, the first communication since he left Ocean Island. It also came back from the islands, I rather wonder what he will say to Harry as D. of E.!

We are much happier & sorry we worried you both & hope the worst is over now.

I enjoy all the papers you send me, I wonder who wrote the article on Ocean & Hauer, we thought at first M<sup>rs</sup> Spivey, his initials are J.H.S. & those in the paper H.J.S. but think he could not make so many errors! Telegram took so long have had to scribble this, sorry.  
 Much love from us both.

Yours lovingly,

Honor

12 JAN. 1937

Pemba.

15<sup>th</sup> December, 1936.

Dearest Lady Maude,

There appears to be no letter from you this week & there is not much news from here. Harry returned to-day after nearly a week in Zanzibar. We are still no nearer any decision; after discussing the Seychelles idea with his seniors Harry sent a telegram to Mr Grimble asking him whether the appointment would have his approval. He was afraid that although the C.O. seem quite prepared to appoint him Mr Grimble might want a more experienced man & we should be going from the frying-pan into the fire. So far no reply has arrived. All in Zanzibar think our chances of returning to the Pacific small, also they think it in our interests to stay here but none of them think we are really heartbroken at being torn away & none of them have a thought much beyond their salaries & pensions.

We are all so dreadfully sad about the King, there must be much more behind it than the marriage, & it will be hard to give the same love & loyalty to the new King. I'm afraid he is in for a hard time with all the world in such a mess. Queen Mary's message to the nation was so nice I think, not one word of disapproval, which looks as

though she thought his decision right though I don't suppose she wanted the marriage.

I am gradually settling down to the different conditions in housekeeping etc. I have to keep an eye on things much more, they have finished a large tin of Olive Oil & a large bottle of vinegar & we have had mayonnaise about 3 times! It means keeping the store locked which I hate & doing things out every day.

With much love from us both

Yours lovingly

Honor.



Pomba.

16<sup>th</sup> December, 1936.

Dearest Lady Maude,

I am sending this Air Mail in the hope that it will reach you in time to bring our very best wishes for a very happy Christmas to you both. It will be a rather different Christmas for us all this year, it never seems like Christmas in the Tropics or else it is the lack of a family. We go to the D.O.'s on Christmas night for a party with, I am told, champagne + I am terrified that they will drink too much + that I shall disgrace myself by wanting to come home. However, with any luck Poncia, the D.O. will be the only one, he always drinks like a fish + has the reddest face I've ever seen + he is only 30.

There are a couple of turkeys on the station, poor dears, + one of them, since the arrival of the second yesterday, has been making an awful row since early dawn. If he isn't careful he will be murdered before Christmas! Did I tell you that the pudding you gave us arrived all

right through the basin broke? It seems to be quite o.k. + I peeled it to make sure we didn't eat splinters.

Harry seems to have enjoyed his week in Kampuchea + I was very glad to have him back again. He went down about the job in the Seychelles which apparently we still have a chance of getting. A telegram arrived last mail day so Harry went down to see the others about it. Nothing is decided yet. You could come + see us there, I believe it is a lovely climate + very healthy.

With much love from us both,

Yours lovingly,

Harriet.

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P.S. Please could you send me a small size block of Civic Bond + envelopes. There are so many notes to write here + I am running short of paper.

26/11/1937

Wete,

Pemba.

23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1936.

Dearest Lady Maude,

There were two letters from you this week, one for Harry & one for me & also the diary which <sup>we</sup> both think very attractive. I hope you discovered that "Field Day" was shaving cream & not one of Harry's papers!

I've been indulging in a nasty bout of diarrhoea & had 3 days in bed, I'm up now but feel very rotten. The doctor thinks I got a chill, the weather is hot & very oppressive so I might have but I shall be so thankful when my things arrive, especially my oil stove & I can fix up a kitchen in the house. My old cook will have to go, I'm sure he isn't clean & the kitchen & stove here are a nightmare, I long for my lovely kitchen at Beu & the cleanliness of the islands, this place gives me the creeps. M<sup>rs</sup> Baker, up above us, has been extremely kind & has prepared my meals for me, junkets, coddled eggs & home-made bread & bangers. She is most kind & an excellent housekeeper, does most of her own cooking & she & her husband are the healthiest people here. She is showing me the ropes so I hope to get things

going more satisfactorily. She is even going to share her cow so that we can be sure of clean milk.

Harry has kept fairly well but I can see he is uneasy, it is most unfortunate my going down, and the sooner my stove comes the better; so far no news of our luggage except from Bern.

No newsletter has arrived yet but Harry thinks he has seen one before & liked it very much.

I'm afraid you have had a sad winter & M<sup>rs</sup> Williams' death in the summer must have been a great shock, but I hope that you & Sir Walter will be left with us for a good many years yet. However, you don't really need that enormous house unless some of the family are at home. Harry says if you move could you go to Jersey? He still prefers Jersey, I'm not sure, Guernsey has advantages as well as disadvantages though it is nice for me when you & Mother are on the same island.

It was sweet of you to think of getting me a travelling "beauty outfit" but I am quite glad you didn't as I have a larger case, like Mary's which takes brushes & all kinds of things. I hope you will approve of my choice of dishes for the Refrigerator.

The Seychelles job is off - we are sorry in a way as the islands & climate are wonderful they say. However, M<sup>r</sup> Grumble confirmed Harry's suspicions as to

the necessity of having good qualifications + a practical knowledge of teaching. He says he would like to have us if Harry feels secure against "vigilant criticism", that is just what Harry does not feel. So we have reluctantly withdrawn - Harry's superiors in Zambezi were against it too but then their only idea is Africa which we don't want.

I have had two pretty little guest towels from Maudie + two handkerchiefs, awfully nice. I have made my own Christmas cards for local use + for the three sisters in Natal, blue note-paper with my own snaps on the front, they look quite pretty. Do you remember my mentioning old D? Could from Ocean Island whom we met in Sydney + who sent me lovely flowers on the Narkunda? He has sent a nice letter to me + a card for Harry.

With much love from us both,

Yours lovingly,

Honor

Chake Chake,  
Pemba.

31<sup>st</sup> December, 1936.

Dearest Lady Maude,

I haven't any letter to answer this mail as our mails have been rather disorganised over Christmas. The ship came up on the Tuesday before Christmas, then again on Sunday which was too soon for home mail & she arrives again tomorrow but we go to M'Kwani early & won't get back to Wete till late afternoon when she will have left.

I was better by Christmas day so we went to the party & quite enjoyed it but left early & of course I couldn't have pudding or mince pies. The Poncia's had decorated the place & had a Christmas tree, paper hats & everything.

Before I forget, the ties & wools arrived on Sunday, many thanks. The book plates arrived back from the Gilberts some time ago & I don't think I mentioned them. Harry is delighted with them & thanks you very much indeed. We are making a catalogue of our books & when the rest arrive & we can complete it we shall put in book plates. We are wanting book cases now, none are provided of course, except a roundabout one, H. wanted some of those

sectional ones with glass doors but they are a fearful price & Mr<sup>s</sup> Thompson, P.W.D. has given us the name of an Indian carpenter who may be able to make for us. Teak can be procured locally & looks lovely unpolished or polished. Mr<sup>s</sup> Thompson has made some fascinating tables & cabinets but Harry isn't a cabinetmaker I'm afraid. We need a car too, the Govt. advance the money but it has to be paid off in 18 months which makes rather a hole in ones income. We think we shall get a new one & make it last but on the other hand if we are moved after one tour we should drop a lot on it, so, as is often the case with us, we are undecided about it!

I have told my old cook he must go, he wasn't strong enough & I couldn't keep on bullying him about keeping the kitchen & saucepans properly cleaned & the firewood chopped. Now I hope to get a young man, they are so dirty that I suppose he will have to be bullied too & I do hate going for them, unfortunately they know it & take advantage till I loose my temper & out they go much to their surprise. One of the house boys is really good I think & works well but I'm not keen on my head boy, it seems to me he's lazy.

We shall move into Pakenham's flat, next door, in about 10 days & there I shall have a garden which

will be a joy. Here at Chake Chake where we are staying in the Rest House for three days I have found a number of flowers like mine in the Gilberts which thrilled me no end & I shall transport a collection to Wete.

I'm afraid all the old palaces here are in ruins & I haven't seen anything better than the Sultan's town residence. Do you see the Sultan & his son are both on the Birthday Honours list?

With much love from us both,

Your loving,  
Honor



No 11 of 1936

Charles Atherton House  
University Campus  
Honolulu, Hawaii

3rd. July, 1936.

Dearest Lady Maude,

We arrived here first thing this morning and were up at 6a.m. ready to pass the doctor and the immigration officials. Honolulu was not nearly as pretty as I thought it would be as we came into the harbour, it was a very cloudy morning and the hills were obscured. Dr. Keesing and Dr. Midkiff came down to meet us and did it in the real Hawaiian style which is one of the biggest "features" of Honolulu, and we were duly decorated with wreaths of flowers. Later we were assembled on deck with the three other delegates from New Zealand and Fiji and photographs were taken., I am told they will appear in to-morrow's newspaper so I shall have to try to get some copies to send home! The Custom's officials were very thorough and we had to open every single thing, they were very nice about it though and did not rumple the clothes, in fact I was complemented on my packing! The University is about three miles from the town, situated in a hollow with hills around it; the flowering shrubs and trees as we came along were lovely, just as beautiful as they are

Charles Atherton House  
University Campus  
Honolulu, Hawaii

described in books. There is an astonishing mixture of nationalities staying in this house, we change places at table every meal so you never know who you will find yourself sitting by, it is all rather fun and awfully interesting. We have a very nice room with two large windows overlooking the campus, two beds with the nicest mattresses I have ever slept on, two very comfy arm chairs, wicker with lovely springy cushions, two desks, two large cupboards let into the wall and a huge chest of drawers. The whole building is made of cement and the inside walls are not even smoothed off but it doesn't look so bad, and the floors and staircases are all cement painted red. This afternoon when the men were free we went down to see the Aorangi go out but there was such a crush of tourists leaving that we couldn't see any of the people we knew. Everyone was smothered in wreaths and quite 75% were weeping, rather ridiculous as most people were only visitors to the island. Afterwards we went with Mr. Russell to try to get tea but discovered that people don't drink afternoon tea in America so we had milk shakes instead at a sort of milk bar. In the middle of our drinks we had the shock of our lives as somebody seemed to be letting off a gun in our vicinity and we began to wonder if we

Charles Atherton House  
 University Campus  
 Honolulu, Hawaii

were in a second Chicago but discovered it was only fireworks! In the evening we were invited out to dinner by Dr. Midkiff at his house out of the city. We had to drive some way and we passed his house to go to a marvellous place called the Pali, where you get the most marvellous view and the wind is so strong you can hardly stand. I had my first lesson in American pronunciation, I asked Dr. Midkiff's small daughter if she had been surfing and she looked completely blank, then suddenly her face lighted up and she said "Oh! you mean surrrrfing". You can imagine the shrieks of laughter from everyone. On the way home we were driven to the top of the Punch Bowl where you get another lovely view but this time over the city which was spread out at our feet like fairyland.

6th.

The 4th was a holiday, being American Independence Day, I did odd jobs in the morning while Harry rehearsed his speech and in the afternoon we went down to Waikiki beach and watched the surfing, it looks simply marvellous but I'm afraid it is a bit strenuous for women as I saw none doing it. Mrs. Mappin, from Auckland, rang us up and we went to their hotel for dinner which was nice. She and Laura, you may remember were on the Niagara with

Charles Atherton House  
University Campus  
Honolulu, Hawaii

us and have been to Alaska for a trip. Yesterday we spent the day with them and so did a young man called Davis who is really English but as he was born here has American citizenship and has a job here, he was brought up in England and is rather nice. In the morning we bathed and after lunch Mr. Davis took us right round the island in his car, it is about 100 miles and a perfect road, wonderful scenery too. We saw acres and acres of sugar cane on the other side of the island and also pineapples. This side is very mountainous, such lovely mountains too. Altogether I think we have done a good deal in three days! Another thing we saw the first night was the night flowering cereus, a cactus with the most wonderful flower, I'll try and get a picture, and they only bloom at night, it is an enormous bloom, about nine inches high. Some of the American customs we think very strange, your side plate is put somewhere in front of you and a funny little knife like a butter knife is used, then you hardly ever use a knife, even bacon and eggs they eat with a fork only. The only part of the whole show I don't care for is the bathing arrangements. There is one large room with seven basins round one end of it where you do all your cleaning of teeth etc. in public, then the

showers, of which there are three, have two little dressing cubicles on either side of each one with just a curtain between, I haven't shared a shower yet but it wouldn't surprise me if I did one morning! There is a row of lavatories on the other side of the room with just a short partition between them and no baths at all. You mail a letter and men wear pants not trousers, and there are heaps of other expressions like that that are different to ours.

We had a very nice trip from Suva, just a week at sea, we left on a Friday, had a Friday again the next day and arrived here early on Saturday. Sports were in full swing when we joined the ship so I entered for most of them, Harry only entered for the less strenuous ones just in case the others might upset him. I had my second injection for typhoid the day we left so I spent the first morning on board in bed but after that was quite all right. Harry won the Bullboard again and was very nearly first in Ping-pong. I got the deck tennis singles, ladies doubles and mixed dohbles with my partners, deck quoits singles and bull board. The Leembruggens, from Ocean Island were on board, he is on his way to Fanning Island as Acting D.O. So we

heard all the Ocean Island news.

We spent the last 11 days of our stay in Suva with Macpherson and met many more people while we were with him. We had a lovely trip too with Mac and Dr. Pearce who is the Senior Medical Officer, we left Suva at 8.30 a.m. on the 22nd and drove across the island to a place called Nanukuloa where we spent the night with another doctor, Dr. Macnaughton. The drive was gorgeous, first of all the road winds up into the hills, frantically winding too, it makes a lot of people carsick, through the densest tropical forest. Later, as we approached what they call the dry belt, the forest dwindled, we came down into valleys where there was rice and sugar-cane growing and further on bare hills. We passed a number of picturesque native villages, nicely kept, and drove along beside a very pretty stream for quite a long way. After tea at the doctor's we went out in his launch to see if we could get some fish for dinner and actually caught an Onga, about 2ft long. The next morning, the King's birthday, we drove about 18 miles further on to inspect a hospital and then went to a big sugar plantation where we had a picnic lunch with all the white employees, I was the only woman there

as apparently the wives only turn up for afternoon Tea.

This afternoon we are going to explore the shopping centre and see what we can see generally.

With much love from us both,

Your loving,

Honor.

P.S. Harry is much better again & is enjoying meeting all these people. Thank you for all the magazines which Auntie sent on to us. The badges have arrived & Auntie is keeping them. The medical board recommended that we should not go back to the Gilberts for a year & now we are waiting to hear what is to happen to us. Mr Barton wants to send us to Pitcairn which would be rather fun but a bit isolated.

Honor.