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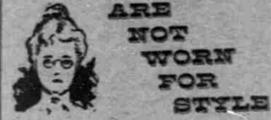
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MISS EMMA KANE, OF CAROLINE ISLANDS

Missionary Returns After Four Years of Work.

FOUND LABOR THERE NOT ALL ROSES

TELLS OF THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED THERE AND OF THE PEOPLE.

The King and the Queen—Progress of Christian Work—Four Morning Stars—School on Kusale—Under the New Order.

Miss Emma Kane, who has just returned from four years spent in the Caroline Islands, has many interesting things to tell of her experiences in the beautiful tropical isles that are to the outside world a mere series of insignificant dots on the map lost in a waste of Pacific waters.

Miss Kane was sent out by the Hawaiian Board of Missions, which was acting in conjunction with the American Board of Missions, in July, 1897, to act as teacher in the Girls' Boarding School on the island of Kusale, and she has been laboring there in the cause of education during the past few years, her only English speaking associates being the seven other teachers employed in the Girls' Boarding School.

There were established nearly forty years ago by the Rev. Hiram Bingham for pupils from the Marshall and Gilbert Islands, the three schools being built near together so that they might work with each other.

Miss Kane is enthusiastic in her descriptions of the Caroline Islands, which she says are ideally beautiful, the island of Kusale being entirely mountainous and the mountains being of the same picturesque character as those of Waianae on this island.

"My work, though sometimes monotonous," said Miss Kane, in an interview, "was very interesting, and my four years on the island of Kusale were the pleasantest indeed of my life. The Girls' Boarding School where I taught there were fifty-four pupils, and after conquering the language spoken by them our work was easy. There were in all the three schools seven teachers besides myself, and we all worked in beautiful harmony. Besides the teachers the only white man on the island was a trader, a Norwegian, and this made the situation rather an isolated one for the American teachers. For myself, a Hawaiian, it was not lonely, as the people of the Carolines are very like the Hawaiians, and I felt as if I were among my own people. Their skin, their type, and their general appearance is that of the Hawaiian, and but for the difference in the language used one might readily mistake them for Hawaiians. They have the same affectionate, gentle dispositions, and in manner and custom they are very much the same as the Hawaiians. Of course at first it seemed very isolated. I went to Kusale just after the Islands had been purchased from Spain by the German Government, and at that time there was only one regular vessel that visited the island during the year. The time we had on the arrival of this annual steamer can better be imagined than described. Our schools were so situated that the pupils of the schools were usually the first to see the ships, and as soon as a vessel was sighted great excitement reigned. School books were out of the question at such a time, and we quickly adjourned while the people hurried from far and wide to the landing place, decked in their best clothes and decorated with flowers and leis. The ship brought new supplies for us, canned goods, dry goods, etc., and the white trader also had supplies arriving. He also did business with such sailing vessels as happened along, but these were very infrequent. We had quite exciting times when we received our mail from the ship, and the opening of bundles and packages from home was a great pleasure. Later on the ships came to the Islands with more frequency and a regular German steamer was put on. This steamer now visits the Islands, coming from Sydney, or from San Francisco, and visiting each of the Islands. It is usual a month or six weeks between visits, and even now steamer day is a great event. The steamer brings supplies and takes away curios, hats, coconut fiber, the cloth, and other things that the natives manufacture, in addition to great quantities of copra, which is the dried meat of the coconut, and which is the principle article of commerce. The natives work very hard gathering and driving this copra, for it is by this work that they earn their money or trade for the cloth stuffs that the ships bring. The people of Kusale are much more industrious than the Hawaiians, I think, and they will work all day very patiently.

The festive days of the Kusale people are very similar to those of the Hawaiians, although I think the Hawaiian is much the more elaborate and more elaborate. They have roast pig the same as we do, and they stew bananas and have coconuts and pine apple prepared in many ways, besides the fish which they eat the same as the Hawaiians. They do not have potatoes, which have a preparation of two which answers the purpose, and which is a dear to them as potatoes to the Hawaiian. The two grows there a great deal larger than here. They cook the taro root and

pound it up, mixing it with coconut juice, and baking it into a sort of cake; then they make a cake-frosting out of the sugar cane juice, and spread it over the cake, which when completed is called "fafa" and is very delicious. At first I was longing for pot all the time, but I learned to like the fafa very much, and now I think it is even better than the pot.

Instead of drinking soda water, root beer and other things like we have at our tables, they drink the juice of the coconut, which is very delicious as a drink when you learn to like it. They have splendid water there, too, and most beautiful waterfalls coming down from the mountains. There is one noticeable thing about the people of Kusale that makes them compare unfavorably with the Hawaiians. They seem to have very little sense of music. They have no songs of their own, and the only musical instrument they have is the accordion—with perhaps the exception of a whistle like a police whistle, which they blow when they play the accordion. Their church songs were all translated for them by the Rev. Mr. Snow, who was a missionary; he also translated the bible and taught them how to read notes, so they can sing from the translated hymn books. There are two native ministers at Kusale, converts of the missionaries who were formerly there, but no white ministers. The King was recently converted to this faith, and ever since his conversion he has been very good to the schools and has lead a much better life.

The King is a kind of High Chief, and his power is absolute on the Islands, because the German Government has allowed the affairs of the island to go on in the same old way. The King has several chiefs under him, and when the King dies the next highest chief succeeds him. The present King, Togusa, was the brother-in-law of the old King, and the Queen, whose name is Kasal, was a sister. They are both very cordial, nice people, and on steamer days the King dresses in American clothes, with a high silk hat, and goes down to meet the people of the vessel. The natives dress a great deal as the Hawaiians do, the women in holokus and the men in most any kind of a way. They make clothes for themselves out of the coconut fibers, and they weave a sort of sash or belt, out of the coconut fibers, and wear them about their waists, calling them "tols." Instead of gourd calabashes to eat out of they have a kind of dish woven out of coconut leaves.

In regard to the law and government there, everything goes very smoothly, although there is not much of a system so far as governing them is concerned. There are certain understood laws, and when these are broken the offender is punished by the King, who requires the person to do hard work, or light work in accord with the seriousness of the offense, or perhaps, if he is a very bad man he imprisons him in a dark room under the King's house. The people, however, do not need much discipline, for they are naturally peaceful and not quarrelsome. I never heard of a thief, and there is no drunkenness except sometimes when the ships give some of the men liquor. There is no intoxicating drink manufactured there, and therefore it is a very temperate place. Sometimes they have fights, and stab each other with knives, but this seldom happens. They live mostly out of doors, although they sleep in their grass houses, which are very pretty and cool. They have not many implements or utensils, and they do their cooking in the fashion of the Hawaiians, baking in the ground. They all go to the big stone church, which was built by the natives under the instruction of Missionary Snow many years ago, on Sundays, and all seem very religious and good. They are very hospitable, and when a stranger lands on their island they run to meet him. They are delighted when the missionary ship comes, which it does once a year. The "Carrie and Annie" is dearly beloved, and the natives all rejoice when she arrives there with supplies of provisions. The missionary vessels of the American Board visit them with supplies too, and those who come on board of her are always welcomed warmly. In the old times the missionary vessels wore about the only vessels that ever visited the Caroline lines; there were four of these that bore the same name, and three of those were lost at sea. The fourth is still on duty. When the first vessel was sent out by the American Board she was fitted up splendidly and christened "The Morning Star." She had not been running long when she was wrecked on the reefs of Gillett Island. There were no lives lost, but the vessel was completely gone to pieces. Another vessel of the same kind was fitted up, given the same name, and met with the same fate, near the same place. A third was fitted out, christened "The Morning Star," and started on the same run, but she followed the other two. The American Board were not superstitious, however, and so when they sent out still another ship they gave her the same name, and so far she has had no accident, although she has made the trip for a number of years.

The days of great rejoicing are the King and Queen's birthdays, and when they come around the people all gather together, coming from all over the islands and bringing gifts of food and fine handwork to their chieftain. There is a big feast, corresponding to our feasts, and the people are all joyful. They bring besides food many curious things of their own making, among them being fish hooks made of mother-of-pearl curiously woven belts and sashes, pretty hats and robes woven of vegetable fibers which have been dyed in gay colors with diamond dyes prepared from white traders.

Kusale is a very beautiful and interesting place. One can give only a faint idea of its beauties by attempting to describe them. The grandeur of its mountains and the charm of its gentle valleys, and the beautiful waterfalls and gentle streams, are lovely beyond imagination, and anyone who has ever visited Kusale will never forget the perfection of climate and scenery. I do not know whether I shall return, but if I do not I know I shall often feel homesick for Kusale and its people.

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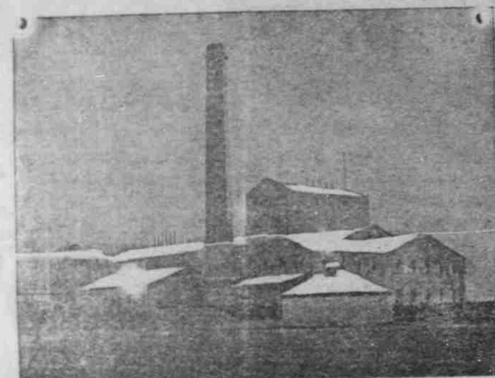
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