

No. 5 bespeaks the good offices of the British Sovereign, and No. 6 promises gratitude for such aid.

No. 7 indicates the mode in which help is required.

No. 8 forecasts the benefits likely to accrue from such assistance.

No. 9 repeats the request contained in No. 7, and

No. 10 contains the formal ending.

Viewing these paragraphs collectively we notice that we can dispense with Nos. 1, 2, 3, 9, and 10. No. 4, which contains the reasons for the request contained in No. 7, and No. 8, which anticipates the good results likely to ensue if the request in No. 7 is conceded, are more important, as they are intended to influence the recipient, but still they do not constitute the pith of the letter: nor does No. 6 with its promise of thanks and gratitude. We have remaining No. 5 and No. 7, which form the core of the document; No. 7, however, containing the main idea in its most explicit form. Gathering these items together we may index as follows:—

## INDEX.

No. of Letter.	Date.	Name.	Subject.
102	13th Feb. 1901 Telegram	Emperor of China to The King of Great Britain	Asking for a reduction of the indemnity and the adoption of a plan for payment by annual instalments.

## ILLUSTRATION 3.

(N.B.—*The student should work this paper in 2 hours.*)

## PITCAIRN ISLAND.

## CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE CONDITION OF THE PITCAIRN ISLANDERS.

## No. 1.

*Admiralty to Colonial Office. (Received June 17, 1898.)*

(Extract.)

*Admiralty, June 14, 1898.*

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State,

copy of a report on Pitcairn Island, by the Commanding Officer of H.M.S. "Comus," dated 23rd November last, together with a copy of the remarks made by the Commander-in-Chief in forwarding the report.

A copy of the report by Captain Proby Doughty in 1884, referred to by the Commander-in-Chief in his remarks, is also forwarded for the sake of reference.

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Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

PITCAIRN ISLAND.

"Imperieuse," at Sea,

Lat. 14° 1' N., Long. 98° 15' W.,

April 25, 1898.

It is a difficult question to decide what should be done for the welfare of this community, in regard to whom we have assumed a sort of moral responsibility.

There is no doubt that they are deteriorating through the effects of inter-marriage and over population.

A present of some live stock, bullocks, goats, pigs, also clothes and gardening tools, would meet present wants, but it is a question whether it would not be wiser, now these people have left their primitive ways and vice and crime are amongst them, to appoint a Governor of some sort in supreme command of the Island.

I wish to refer their Lordships to a copy of a report by Captain Proby Doughty (forwarded herewith), which, though made years ago, seems to bear on the matter.

It seems to be the absence of discipline and incentive to work that is chiefly the cause of this lack of moral fibre.

Any who wish to leave the Island should be encouraged to do so. Even if they return, they will bring new ideas.

I have, etc.,

H. BURY PALLISER, Rear-Admiral,  
Commander-in-Chief.

The Secretary to the Admiralty.

## REPORT ON PITCAIRN ISLAND.

H.M.S. "Comus," at Sea,

Lat. 39° 44' S., Long. 100° 31' W.,

November 23, 1897.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the population of Pitcairn Island is now 149, having increased from 136 in 1894. During the last 18 months there have been seven births, one death from natural causes, and two murders. Robert Buffett is the oldest inhabitant, being 76 years of age. He is the son of the man who in 1823 volunteered to remain on the Island to help teach, etc.

The people all seem happy and contented with their lot, poor as it is.

Meat, except chicken, which is not much cared for, is unknown. All the bullocks were unwisely killed years ago. Sheep will not thrive at all. The Island is overrun with chickens, which have become almost wild. There is no liquor in the Island, and smoking is unknown. Tea, coffee, etc., also, they never have, using water only. A new governing body of seven is elected on 1st of January of each year, women and men all voting alike. The seven selected nominate one of their own number to be chairman. The organ taken to the Island in H.M.S. "Opal" in 1879, as a present from Her Majesty Queen Victoria, is now nearly worn out, owing to the damp climate. The boat taken by H.M.S. "Hyacinth" is in good order, and a few materials were supplied for its repair.

2. The question whether the constant inter-marrying that has taken place in 107 years is physically degenerating the younger members, is a very interesting one. However, one curious trait is very noticeable in them, viz. :—the loss of the front teeth. To be correct, the teeth are not lost, but broken off. Some attribute this defect to the food eaten by the inhabitants, such as bananas, yams, etc., but this is not noticed amongst the negro races in various parts of the world, or even in the Tahitian natives close at hand, who live on the same sort of food. Again, an American missionary and his wife, who have been on the Island since June, 1896, superintending the school, both assured me that the want of intellect among the young was simply appalling, and they had no hesitation in putting it down to this inter-marrying. In fact, they had given up all hope of improvement, and intended leaving by the first opportunity.

3. The men are strong and active, the women the same, and both well developed. Yet one could not help noticing a want of some-



thing, although they are certainly, especially the men, very keen in making a good bargain for the Island goods.

4. Their great wants are clothes of every sort, few, if any, having boots or stockings. Also nails, iron, hammers, paint, etc., to repair the boats on which the whole intercourse they have with the outer world depends,—it being impossible to land in one's own boats.

The Island goods are exchanged with passing ships, but the "Comus" was the first man-of-war that had visited Pitcairn since January, 1896, so their clothes had run to a very low ebb. Sailing ships, as a rule, can spare very little, and months often pass without a ship calling at the Island. As to literature, they have little or none; in fact, they refused what was offered them. They do absolutely nothing all day. As regards clothes, their stock had run so low that I gave them 105 yards of flannel, for the use of the women, as a present from Her Majesty's Government, which I feel sure will be approved of. I enclose a list of the various articles with which I supplied them. Gardening tools are also required. The missionary schooner that used to visit the Island has been sold, so that they are worse off than ever now.

5. I was told that the morals of the community are not what they should be, and that lately several illegitimate children had been born.

6. In conclusion, I have no hesitation in saying that soon the question will have to be faced—are they to continue as they are?—viz.: marrying among themselves and increasing. The slender resources they have will not stand a much greater population, and among the young men a desire is evinced to leave the Island.

I have, etc.,

HENRY H. DYKE,

Captain.

The Secretary to the Admiralty,  
London, S.W.

*List of Articles supplied.*

Oars (ash), 16 feet ... ..	12 in number.
Iron flats, 2 in. by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. ... ..	20 lbs.
Iron flats, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $\frac{3}{8}$ in. ... ..	24 lbs.
Junk, 3 in. ... ..	1 cwt.
Trusses (medical) ... ..	1 in number.
Flannel ... ..	105 yards (1 bale).
Soap ... ..	100 lbs.

HENRY H. DYKE,

Captain.

## Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

## REPORT ON PITCAIRN ISLAND.

H.M.S. "Constance" at Sea,

Lat.  $0^{\circ} 46'$  S., Long.  $136^{\circ} 54'$  W.,

Sir,

March 31, 1884.

As stated in my letter of proceedings of 14th April, 1884, I arrived off Pitcairn's Island, in H.M.S. "Constance," on the morning of the 18th of March. Shortly after "heaving to" I was boarded by Benjamin Young, Chief Magistrate for the current year, James R. McCoy, Chief Magistrate for 1883, Thursday October Christian, Chief Magistrate for 1882, and several others. It appeared they had not seen the ship till she rounded Adam's Rock into Bounty Bay. When steam was ready, furled sails, and anchored in  $17\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms—sand.

2. After some general conversation with Young and McCoy, I landed in the galley, taking McCoy with me; the rest followed shortly after in their whale boats.

3. From the landing there is a narrow, steep, foot-worn path up the irregular cliffs of rock and earth, amid bushes and ferns, to the higher ground above, on which the cottages are built. The cottages, 17 in number, are scattered about; in some places two or three may stand near each other. Most have outhouses for cooking and storing wood, agricultural implements, etc. The church and schoolroom is a long wood style and rafter-thatched building, seating for 90 people being partitioned off at east end for the church, with a Communion rail dividing off the "minister" and harmonium from the congregation. The school portion of the building has seating sufficient for the entire present community—104, of all ages and both sexes. This building has five doors—three at side facing the sea, two on north side. There is a door through from schoolroom to church.

4. The place of "minister" is filled by Simon Young, who, as far as he is able, takes the place of the Rev. G. Nobbs, now at Norfolk Island. Young seems a simple-minded, honest-intentioned, inoffensive man, well up in years, quiet in manner, evidently respected. He officiates as a "clerk," administers the Sacrament, marries, christens, and buries as needs require. He and his eldest daughter, a single woman of 32—Rosaline Young—conduct and manage the school "gratis." She seems capable in the matter of control, has a



pleasant face and a very happy manner, and yet a quiet self possession that made me remark her. She came on board the next day with nearly the whole community, and seemed as pleasantly at ease with her friends forward as aft. Being asked to play the harmonium she soon attracted a good many, with a fiddle or two to assist her. She has a quiet, kindly dignity, which drew and elicited the sympathies of her audience, who joined in with their voices. I have rather mentioned her in particular, as I shall James R. McCoy, because they seemed to me two distinctive and superior characters in the community. Her mother was just married when I was here in the "Portland," and is now a remarkable, young-looking, active, quick-witted woman of 55, and wife of Simon Young, the minister. She went through, on her finger ends, all the officers and midshipmen of the "Portland," "Daphne," "Dido," and "Amphitrite" who visited the Island about that time. James Russel McCoy has much more of the Englishman in his features, colour, manner, and tone of thought than any of the other men now on this island of the original stock. It was under his administration that the school and church were built. He is business like, and, I hear, made them work, setting example himself, but they don't like it. In talking with him, he said: "I cannot persuade them it is not sufficient that we should be content to only just do as much work as will keep our cottages together, and produce sufficiency of food." He has been to England—the captain of a merchant ship that had called several times at last persuaded him to accompany him. He appears to have been very pleasantly taken notice of by several people in good social position while there, and to have been very favourably impressed. The uncertainty and cold of our climate in no way having sealed up his power of taking notice and appreciating the vastness of London, and the intense business of everybody, whether at Liverpool—where he had spent the most of his time with the friend that took him home—or in London, he seems to have been much impressed with our enormous capacity for work. He spoke very sensibly of their own position—"that it was folly to expect that the English Government could be expected to support them, or again go to the expense of transporting them should their Island be again overstocked." He seems to think it was great folly—his own word was ingratitude—returning to Pitcairn after all the expense the Crown had been put to in clearing out Norfolk Island, leaving them the buildings, roads, and 50 acres of land apiece. He said: "I was young and simple; came back here with my parents."

5. They seem to have returned in small batches, extending over the years 1859 to 1864, and I was further told that, had the first batch which landed been but a few hours later in landing, they would have found the French flag flying. The Captain of a French ship of war that arrived the day following their landing appears to have told them this, expressing surprise at finding the Island re-occupied.

6. While McCoy was in England, the "Acadia," of Liverpool, was wrecked on Ducie Island, a coral reef 190 miles to the eastward of Pitcairn, the crew from which landed at Pitcairn June, 1881. By passing vessels this crew were sent away, except two men—Albert J. Nolk, who married Mary Ann Young, and Philip Coffin, who married Mary Florence Warren, and allowed to remain on the Island.

7. Albert Knight, boat-builder and carpenter by trade, also of the "Acadia," got engaged to Maria Jane Young, and their banns were published in the church. The islanders now professed to be alarmed at the inroad of strangers, but for the present Knight did not leave. The matter was to be referred to the first (so they tell me) Queen's officer calling. This appears to have been Commander B. F. Clark, in the "Sappho," who drew up a rule to meet the case (see No. 12). Knight thought this very hard; however, he left in the "Sappho," and I learn is now in good business in Honolulu. McCoy had been written to, and came out first opportunity, of which it appears there are many from Liverpool and San Francisco—from 16 to 24 ships calling at Pitcairn during the year. He appears to have expressed his views very plainly about the matter—viz., that they behaved weakly and foolishly in permitting these two men to remain on the Island. They brought not a penny to the Island, but lived upon their wives' share of the family property. They knew no trade, and therefore were useless. Again, in driving Knight away they had done a real injustice to Maria, since she had as much right to remain as the other two; and again, the whole community had suffered by the last act—that, whereas Volk and Coffin were useless interlopers, Knight was a useful tradesman, had repaired their boats, had half built a weaving loom, an art it would have been good for their women to learn instead of idling their time, and might have been a real use to the community. McCoy seemed to think it would have been better had the rule been made "conditional" by Commander Clarke, instead of "absolute," and I was half inclined to think so at first, but seeing the weakness of



the men, and how impossible in a small community it would be, with women crying and appealing to them (female suffrage exists here), to say "no" if they were permitted a discretion, I thought it best as it was, and did not modify it, though asked by McCoy and the present Chief Magistrate, pointing out to them that the rule strengthened their hands against appeals, but that they might be slow to put it in force if they came across a really useful man. Again, it would be of real value in deterring the overgrowth of the community, and minimise the evil of continual subdivision of property. I advised that for the present they should forbid marriage with strangers, except under a binding condition that the man took his wife away to a home elsewhere, or brought some equivalent in property or skill as an artificer to balance his wife's portion.

8. Pitcairn is not such an unvisited, isolated island as it was. Several ships have been lost lately on Ducie, Elizabeth, and Oeno Islands. Their crews have made for Pitcairn in the first instance, and stayed longer or shorter periods. The "Cornwallis" was wrecked on Pitcairn in 1875, and the crew were on the island some weeks before getting away; the crew of the "Candish," lost at "Enoc" latter end of same year, were 52 days before they all got away from Pitcairn; the "Allen Gowie" (?crew), wrecked on Elizabeth in 1877, were on their way for Pitcairn when they were picked up by a passing vessel; and the crew of the "Acadia," wrecked in May, 1881, on Ducie, as before stated, came here. The average of calls here of late years would appear to be about one ship in three weeks. Formerly the whalers resorted here, but they tell me they are seldom seen or heard of now. Of the two men Volk and Coffin, seamen of the "Acadia," Volk appears, and is reported of, as a quiet, inoffensive young man, and he looks it. Coffin is a native of Nantucket, Massachusetts, United States, and looks over 45; Mary Jane Warren, his wife, is 16. Her mother married Samuel Warren, a native of New Providence, Rhode Isle, when they were at Norfolk Island. They came to Pitcairn, and he died 13th November, 1877, aged 38. The widow has three male and six female children living with her. Coffin tells me he hopes to spend the rest of his life at Pitcairn. I do not think he is by any means a desirable character. His presence there is a mistake. He, with his wife, should be sent off to Gambia, or one of the other islands, but he won't go if he can avoid it; the girl has her share of the family property—and that she by custom takes when married.



Will grow there enough to live on; if he goes elsewhere he will have to work; but he is likely to cause trouble at Pitcairn.

9. There appear to be 104 souls on the island, of which 49 are male, and 55 female. They have registered, since returning from Norfolk Isle, 12 marriages and 17 deaths; among the latter, 6th November, Elizabeth, wife of William Young, and daughter of John Mills, of H.M.S. "Bounty," aged 93. She is said to have been the second person born on the Island after the landing of the Mutineers.

10. In speaking of this people, I feel that great injustice may be done by drawing comparisons between the impressions retained of a visit made during the impressible days of youth, and the cooler judgment of to-day. Again, one is very liable to be unfavourably impressed by the ill-made slop clothing and dirty finery clothes sent them by well meaning friends at home. When I had last seen them, some were wearing blue skirts and white jackets, others the graceful white tappa dress of Otahaita, and for their heads a wreath of "red everlasting"; now we see pork-pie hats, tawdry ribbons, and brass, glass, and steel ornaments. These are but outward signs, and I suppose it would be as impossible for these people to go back to the graceful dress of "Oberea" and "Pomare" as for ourselves to go back to the dress of the past. But they do appear to me, also, to have lost much of the activity of the past—their houses do not seem so clean, the gardens are now ill-kept—nothing looks trim or in order, the pleasant little open spaces and tidy kept places have disappeared, and their mountain paths, as far as I saw, even those about the settlement and between the cottages, are not in a creditable state. In short, the gardens, settlement and paths all look much neglected, and I feel convinced I am doing them no injustice when I say they do not keep their island in the order or turn its great capabilities to the advantage their parents and grandparents did. Mr. Nobbs was an Englishman, and, what is more, a seaman, and one of very varied experience, having been an officer both in the Royal Navy and under Lord Cochrane, in Chili. Such training taught him what could be done—what ought to be done—and how to set people to work to do it. What these people want is an Englishman in love with their cause over them. One of their own people has not the independence for exercising sufficient authority over them. I took it upon myself to tell the Chief Magistrate and McCoy that they must remember they claim English descent, they fly the English flag, and speak the English tongue (though I

hear a native language is being taught them in their school at Norfolk Island, to supersede English: if so they will probably descend to the level of its civilisation and ideas—this may in part account for the retrograde movement among those who have returned to this island); that they must not be content to let nature take its course and themselves be idle—that they must show themselves worthy of that descent, and put their settlement in order. Even John Adams's grave is so ill-kept that, were it not for the headstone, I should not have observed it among the bushes.

11. The schooling is done "gratis," which is another mistake. Mr. Nobbs made them pay 1s. a month; they were obliged to work to meet the fines and obligations imposed by him upon them.

12. The enclosed list of rules, copied from their register book, are a very rudimentary code, and, oddly enough, nothing definite as to fine or punishments.

13. Whether the people are really contented and happy would require some little stay among them to determine—apparently they are happy in a quiet sort of way, but they have not the light-hearted joyousness of the past—the women did not run out of their houses to welcome us, or the children run about with excitement and offer flowers and fruit—the tone of reception was staid and commonplace. The majority of females over males has doubtless a depressing effect, and must, in spite of all other of Nature's blessings, tinge the temperament with sadness. Numerically there are only six more females than males; but the numbers on the male side are made up by children, who can never grow up to be husbands to the 15 or more marriageable single women. With education and knowledge will come a sense of the unsatisfactoriness of an ideal Arcadian life—human nature must deteriorate when there is no stimulus for work—savages always deteriorate when they give up fighting—civilised races have, fortunately, stimulus for exertion suited to peaceable times, and so advance; these people are civilised, but have no stimulus for exertion, no ambition, and the impression made on me is that they have gone back in the scale of human training, rather than forward. In the days of their ignorance and simplicity, tappa dresses and red wreaths, they were proud of themselves, and worked to show themselves, their houses and their island off to the best advantages: now they know themselves to be, as the Americans express it, "behind time" hopelessly, and are contented to drift on.

14. I have no reason for supposing they have departed from the



laws of that adhesion to propriety with which they have ever been accredited.

15. What they require to save them from sinking into self-neglect and sloth is some one who will enforce order—tidiness, repair of public roads, etc. In short, turn the rock into a coastguard station, with a chief boatman-in-charge: it would be a far pleasanter command than Ascension: giving him very general and open orders for several years, till the people were accustomed to work, and saw the beauty that results from labour and order—with the captain of a Queen's ship their "highest appeal," as it is now in fact. See "Power of the Magistrate."

16. There are many details, had time permitted, I would have gone into, especially about their "woman suffrage" and voting, which does not appear to have given satisfaction, also their property boundaries and family divisions of property wants looking into, and several other laws, customs, etc., that would require time to investigate their origin, or the necessity that called them into existence, before expressing an opinion as to their worth or the injustice that might arise by altering them.

17. The average school-attendance appears to be 32 children of both sexes. The schooling is simple and elementary, including sewing, but I am not inclined to think the people are much given to reading. They have a little public library. I remarked that the books looked in uncommon good order, suggesting that they were not much used or lent out, but old Simon Young said, "They always take great care of them, and returned them when done with."

18. Cattle they have none; they appear to have about 25 sheep, 60 pigs, and 200 goats, many fowls. They are never short of water. The cement which I conveyed, sent them by the Admiralty, will be of much use in making their reservoirs watertight, and for lining small wells at high elevations. They are not an ingenious people; though they have no forge, they have every requisite for making one. McCoy has attempted this, and also, since his return from England, has led water down in a wood trough from the hills to the settlement. Their carpentering is of the rudest and only most necessary kind; there is no sense of pleasure in using a portion of their endless leisure in carving, ornamenting, or making what necessity does not compel. McCoy sees and laments this, and makes sticks of various woods for sale and presents; and Rose Young has made and ornamented with work a lot of baskets of palm fibre, in the hope of sending them to Mr. Drew, I understood (a

clergyman at Blackheath, or somewhere about there). She says she has been told they will sell and be regarded for their sake—(the Bounty Pitcairn sentiment).

19. Had there been any genius or proper ambition among them, they would have understood enough from Albert Knight and the work he left behind him to have completed the hand loom in some sort of workable form, and the women should have been started spinning yarn for its work, or preparing the cotton and thread they have to experimentalise with, but nothing is done or will be as far as I can make out unless Knight return to complete what he has commenced. No, as I have often stated, I believe the only hope of staying the downfall of these Islanders in their home would be to put them under an English Governor of some sort or other, and none by training would be better fitted than a man-of-war's man—an officer or warrant officer—one without home ties other than an able wife, prepared and willing to make this really pleasant island their home—and its advancement, his line of duty and obligation—and there are lots such.

I have, etc.,

F. PROBY DOUGHTY, *Captain.*

Rear-Admiral Lyons,  
*Commander-in-Chief, Pacific.*

Copy of a Copy.

PROBY DOUGHTY,  
Captain.

19th March, 1884.

#### LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF PITCAIRN ISLAND.

##### *Form of Oath.*

I solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will execute the Office of Magistrate and Chief Ruler of Pitcairn Island, in subordination to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, as her representative, and that I will perform the duties of my office zealously, fearlessly, and without partiality to the utmost of my ability.—By the help of Almighty God.

##### *Power of the Magistrate.*

The Magistrate is to preside on all public occasions, and if any case should be brought to his notice he is to hear both sides of the



question and to decide and pass judgment accordingly, and should his judgment be objected against he is to call his councillors to his assistance, and should their decision be objected to he is to call a jury of heads of families to whose decision the parties are to abide until the arrival of the first British ship-of-war, to whose commander the case must be submitted, and from whose decision there is no appeal. Also the authority of enacting laws are invested into his hands, and to see all laws properly supported, and all fines duly executed, and to summon others to assist him in enforcing his authority. Also he can punish in trivial matters of all description, when done or tend to evil, at his will.

In regard to votes—

*Suffrage.*

Male and female at the age of twenty-one (21) and upwards.

No one should be elected as Chief Magistrate under the age of thirty (30).

No one should be elected as First Councillor under the age of twenty-five (25).

The Chief Magistrate is to choose a Second Councillor and Churchwarden.

*Laws and Regulations.*

1st. No one is allowed to call on the Magistrate without a good evidence or satisfactory proof against an opposing party or parties without laying himself open to whatever fine the Magistrate or jury might lay upon him for lost time.

2nd. Any two persons convicted of the crime of fornication are amenable to such a fine as may be laid upon them, and should the crime be committed to such an extent as to produce offspring the father is to support the child as long as it lives; one half of the fine goes to the informant, should there be one.

3rd. Anyone being detected of using profane language must be submitted to such a fine as the magistrate (or authority) thinks fit to impose, one half of the fine goes to the informant.

4th. Any person or persons being found guilty of using obscene language must be submitted to such a fine as the authorities may think fit to impose; one half the fine goes to the informant.

5th. Any person in a quarrel or passion striking his opponent with the fist or any other weapon must submit himself to whatever fine the authorities think fit to impose, and should the blow be

returned (save in the case of self defence) they are to be submitted to the same fine.

6th. Any person insulting the Magistrate must be punished.

7th. No person or persons are to call in question any preceding case which has passed the investigation of the Magistrate and his councillors to prevent the cause of justice. Anyone so offending is amenable to such a penalty as the authority might impose.

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10th. Whoever is convicted of stealing is to be fined and the stolen property made good; one half of the fine goes to the informant.

11th. No person or persons are to bring cocoanut or coconuts from Totherside or any part of the Island without their being accompanied by one of the authorities or churchwardens.

12th. Any person raising false report against his neighbour for the sake of jealousy or revenge, or anything by which he would be injured, must be punished.

13th. Should any dog go out by himself or stray away from his master be found chasing sheep in any part of the Island where they are kept, must be killed for the first offence.

14th. Should any dog be seen chasing goats or going by himself inside of the boundary line given for goats, may be killed on the spot, and should the dog chasing goats escape must yet be killed for the first offence.

15th. In respect to fowls: Should any dog be found killing fowls or eating eggs, is to be killed for the first offence.

16th. No person or persons are to kill any cat unless doing him damage. If anyone be found so doing, shall be punished by having his dog taken from him and be killed; and should the person have no dog, he shall be punished by the Magistrate. Should a dog go out with his master and fall in with a cat and chase him, and the owner of the dog make all effort to save the cat, this will save his dog, though the cat die afterwards; but should no effort be made to save the cat, the dog must be confined for the first offence and be killed for the second.

17th. If a man's fowl should do his neighbour damage, he must take them away. The owner of the plantation must once speak to him, but if he still refuse, the owner of the said plantation is at liberty to shoot and claim it as his own property.

18th. No person or persons are allowed to pay gratis without



laying themselves open to such a fine as the authorities may think fit to impose.

19th. Reports from children under the age of 14 will be noticed.

20th. No one is allowed to take cat-fish (except for bait) from Lookout to John Adams' fishing place. Should anyone be found so doing he shall be punished.

21st. No hogs are allowed to run loose only in case of sickness.

22nd. Each family are allowed to keep four breeding goats at Tahowtamma—this has been agreed to in Court on the 16th day of October, 1882.

23rd. If the goatherd fails to drive the goats morning and evening, must pay a fine of four shillings (4s.); but if he fail once, must pay two shillings (2s.).

(These Rules not signed.)

The following Order was pasted in:—

12th. That from henceforth (July 2nd, 1882) no more strangers are allowed to settle on the Island.

The above Law was agreed to in my presence by all the heads of families assembled by Thursday October Christian, Chief Magistrate, in consequence of a dispute which was referred to me for decision.

BOUVERIE F. CLARK,

July 2nd, 1882.

Commander H.M.S. "Sappho."

No. 2.

*Mr. Chamberlain to High Commissioner Sir G. T. M. O'Brien.*

Sir,

*Downing Street, July 9, 1898.*

I have the honour to transmit to you, for your information, copy of a report\* on Pitcairn Island by the Commander of H.M.S. "Comus," dated the 23rd of November last, together with a copy of the remarks made by the Commander-in-Chief on the Australian station, in forwarding it to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I shall be glad to be favoured with any observations you may have to offer on Captain Dyke's report.

I have, etc.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

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\* Enclosure 1 in No 1

## No. 3.

*High Commissioner Sir G. T. M. O'Brien to Mr. Chamberlain.*

(Received November 30, 1898.)

*Office of the High Commissioner  
for the Western Pacific,*

*Suva, Fiji, October 25, 1898.*

Sir,

Referring to your despatch of 9th July last,\* I have the honour to inform you that I took advantage of Mr. Hunter's recent visit to Pitcairn Island, in the capacity of Judicial Commissioner, to ask him to report generally on the condition of the islanders, and to suggest any measures that might appear feasible to him with a view to their improvement; and I now enclose a copy of a report which I have received from him on the subject, and of a further paper in which he answers some questions that I asked him regarding one of the recommendations made by him.

2. It will be seen from his report that he is of opinion that, if the *status quo* be allowed to continue, the islanders will gradually drift into imbecility, and he suggests that they should either be brought to Fiji, or afforded opportunities for visiting Tahiti. As regards the former alternative, I have consulted my Executive Council, and they are unanimously of the opinion, in which I fully concur, that it is not desirable to import the Pitcairn Islanders or any of them into this Colony. The habits and intellectual grade of the islanders are not such as to make it at all likely that they would be able to earn their living here; the climate of Fiji is not one in which white men can work for any length of time at agricultural pursuits, or permanently reside; and the upshot of the importation, if it were attempted, would be prejudicial to the islanders, and would ultimately result in their becoming a burden on the Colony. On the feasibility of the other alternative suggested by Mr. Hunter, that they should be provided with means of visiting Tahiti, I am not in a position to express any opinion; but I may mention that it has occurred to me, in reading the history of the case, that the best solution of the difficulty might, possibly, be found in deporting them to Norfolk Island.

I have, etc.,

G. T. M. O'BRIEN.

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\* No. 2.



## Enclosure 1 in No. 3.

(Extract.)

## PITCAIRN.

For the purpose of this report, it is needless to trace the history of the Pitcairn Islanders further back than the year 1859.

On the 17th of January of that year, the first of the discontented few who left Norfolk Island returned to Pitcairn. This party consisted of two women, two men, and twelve children.

A second party of four men, six women, and seventeen children, returned on the 2nd February, 1864; thus, the total number of the population at that date was, approximately, forty-three souls, viz. : six men, eight women, and twenty-nine children. They consisted of—

22 Youngs.  
11 Christians.  
6 McCoys.  
2 Warrens.  
2 Buffets.

Thirty-four years after, in August, 1898, the population numbered one hundred and forty-two souls, viz., thirty-five men, fifty-one women, and fifty-six children—thirty-six males and twenty females—consisting of—

51 Christians.  
47 Youngs.  
20 Warrens.  
11 Coffins.  
6 McCoys.  
2 Butlers.  
1 Buffet.  
4 Smiths.

From these the Smith family may be eliminated, as they only came to the Island about the end of last year, and intend leaving by the first opportunity.

The population has trebled itself in 34 years, and this in spite of the epidemic that thinned their numbers in 1893.

There has been no fresh blood introduced into the community, with the exception of one or two sailors from ship-wrecked crews who were allowed to remain on the Island.

They have left the English Church, and joined the Seventh Day

Adventists, and although they have a schoolroom where the attendance of children is enforced, the little ones speak a jargon of their own that is hard to understand.

The men appear strong and of good physique, though inclined to stoop; the women are robust and active, but greatly disfigured by the loss of their front teeth. This is noticeable among some of the younger ones, who otherwise might be termed comely. I drew the attention of Staff Surgeon Beatty, of the "Royalist," to this; he attributed the loss of the teeth to "degeneration" or "physical devolution."

The children are bright, merry little things, the only redeeming feature in the place, whereas the adults, with the exception of one or two of the older ones, have a tired, weary, hungry look, very different to what I expected to see, from accounts that I had previously read of this unique Island and its people.

They begin and end their day with prayer; they neither drink nor smoke; and they appear to be almost vegetarians. If they are questioned, the questions must be put in plain, simple language, or they do not understand.

The manner in which the men handle their lifeboat in a heavy sea, and the way they force her through the surf at the landing place, shows that they are not wanting in physical strength and pluck.

lax in morals, weak in intellect, they are fast degenerating; and unless something is speedily done to alter their condition, they will probably drift into hopeless imbecility.

Thursday October Christian, a bright and cheery old man, with a wonderful memory, who was born in 1819, and is a grandson of the original Fletcher Christian, of "Bounty" fame, said that he thought the Island could support a schooner if it was supplied to them. Arrowroot, oranges, lime juice, and coffee were the articles of export that he mentioned. But I fear the time has passed for any such venture.

Although so closely connected with each other by inter-marriage, they appear to be losing their old spirit of cohesion, and I noticed with regret some ill-feeling existing between the two principal families, the Christians and the Youngs. This I did my best to allay during my short visit.

McCoy, the president of the governing body, told me that things were not as they used to be, and complained bitterly of his waning power over the people. He also mentioned the large number of illegitimate births on the Island.



The suggestion made by Captain Proby Doughty, in 1884, to send an ex-naval officer, or warrant officer, to take charge, might have been of some benefit to these people 14 years ago, but now I fear it would be a hopeless, heart-breaking task. In my opinion, the only way to save them is to remove them to some other place, and I venture to suggest that, if they were given a block of land in Fiji, they would ere long become useful settlers, while the younger people could go out to service, and supply a want much felt in this Colony. Their wants are few, they are accustomed to grow their own supplies, and as fruit producers they might do well.

If this is not feasible, steps should be taken to place them in constant and regular communication with Tahiti, so that the younger members of the community would have an opportunity of leaving the Island. Some of the younger men expressed a wish to go and see something of the outside world.

If allowed to continue drifting as they are, they will, as I have already said, probably end in hopeless imbecility.

*Suva, Fiji, October 12, 1898.*

HAMILTON HUNTER.

Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

PITCAIRN.

With regard to existing communication between Tahiti and Pitcairn Island, there is none. But there are schooners trading to "Mangasevu," in the Paumotu Group, that would probably go on to Pitcairn regularly if paid for it.

Mr. Brander, of Tahiti, who has interests in Easter Island, sends a schooner there once or twice a year, and he, no doubt, would call at Pitcairn if required.

My idea for suggesting regular and constant communication, in the event of its being impossible to remove the inhabitants *en masse*, was to give the younger ones an opportunity of leaving the Island if they wished to do so; but, owing to their communal way of living, I fear that the elders would throw difficulties in the way of the younger ones leaving.

With regard to settlement in Tahiti, if the Islanders went over as labourers they would be welcome, and would have no difficulty in obtaining employment, but I have doubts whether they would be

welcomed as settlers ; on this point it might be advisable to communicate with the British Consul at Tahiti.

HAMILTON HUNTER.

*Suva, October 19, 1898.*

No. 4.

*Admiralty to Colonial Office.—(Received December 5, 1898.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, 2nd December, 1898.*

I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, copy of a Report on Pitcairn Island by the Commanding Officer of H.M.S. "Royalist," dated 5th October.

I am, etc.,

EVAN MACGREGOR.

Enclosure in No. 4.

REPORT ON PITCAIRN ISLAND.

*H.M.S. "Royalist," at Suva, Fiji,*

*5th October, 1898.*

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following remarks on Pitcairn Island for your information :—

On opening the High Commissioner's Court, held on the Island, the Judicial Commissioner read the proclamation issued by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, placing Pitcairn Island under the jurisdiction of the High Commissioner of the Western Pacific, and ordered the same to be posted up, and shown to the captain of any British man-of-war calling in the future.

2. On approach the Island presents a much more barren aspect than one was led to expect from former descriptions. This I ascertained to be due to the gradual disappearance of trees which formerly grew all over the Island, and, consequent on their disappearance, the soil on the steep slopes has been washed away. There is still, however, a large area of deep and exceedingly fertile soil left in the valleys and on the hills in the interior.



3. The loss of the trees in question seems to have affected the climate, as the people now complain a good deal of droughts, in fact the yam and sweet potato crops were very backward at the time we were there, owing to this cause.

4. The oranges that we obtained were as fine as any I have seen in any other part of the world, but the breadfruit trees were affected by some blight or disease, and had ceased to bear fruit. Yams and sweet potatoes grew well, but the former crop was subject entirely to the absence of droughts, and the chance of its failure was a source of considerable anxiety to the people, who depend largely on it for their food supply.

5. Arrowroot is made on the Island, and the output could be considerably increased were proper arrangements made for carrying it to a market. I was informed that any quantity would be accepted at Tahiti.

6. Coffee seems to grow freely, but is not cultivated for the market, in fact, as there is no regular communication the people do not seem to think of any regular system of manufacturing produce, but just lay by a little in case of a chance of disposing of it, and in consequence, I understand, lose a good deal of their labour through deterioration.

7. The population is now 141, composed as follows :—

			Males.			Females.
Adults	...	...	34	...	...	51
Children	...	...	36	...	..	20
			<u>70</u>	...	...	<u>71</u>

8. In bodily appearance the people look healthy and vigorous, but the same cannot be claimed for them mentally. In the latter respect they show a distinct deficiency, which was noted by everyone on board, and could not be mistaken for the simplicity due only to want of communication with the outside world.

9. The moral sense of the people seems to be weak, and some of the things we heard would tend to show that a very serious state of affairs existed in that respect.

10. There appears to be a distinct reason for their condition when it is remembered that the present population of 141 is derived, with one exception, from the 42 people, *i.e.*, 14 adults and 28 children, that returned from Norfolk Island between 1859 and 1864, consisting of four families only, and they already closely related. It was the opinion of all on board, and of the most intelligent of the islanders

themselves, that this state of affairs should not be allowed to continue if means can be found to remedy it.

11. From all that I have gathered on the subject, I consider that if regular communication were established it would be a boon to the islanders, and would go a long way towards correcting the unsatisfactory state of affairs that undoubtedly exists at present.

12. I submit this could be accomplished by establishing communication with Manga Reva Island, in the Paumotu Group, which is already in communication with Tahiti.

13. By this means the people of Pitcairn would be able to get to and fro as they wished, and also would be enabled to dispose of such produce as they can raise and manufacture on the Island. Such produce, I understand, would in course of time be sufficient to enable them to pay a tax, at any rate in kind, to cover the expense of establishing this communication, and the young people would be induced to go abroad to seek employment. The principal cause preventing their going now is the uncertainty of being able to return, and the absence of regular posts.

14. There should be no difficulty in obtaining a contract at Tahiti to establish this service, say three times a year, as schooners already trade to Manga Reva, a distance of only 300 miles from Pitcairn.

15. This scheme is only put forward as an alternative to removing them altogether, which would no doubt be the better plan, especially as, judging from the increasing reports of droughts and the deforestation of the Island, their removal will become an absolute necessity at no very distant date.

16. I had a good many applications for passage to Tahiti, but did not take any one, as I could not tell how my bringing people to that place would be regarded by the French authorities. I informed the Governor of Tahiti of the facts, and he said "they were anxious to get people to come and settle in Tahiti, and that there was employment waiting for any number."

I have, etc.,

ARTHUR W. TORLESSE, *Commander.*

Rear-Admiral Hugo Lewis Pearson, R.N.,  
*Commander-in-Chief H.M. Ships and Vessels,*  
*Australia,*



No. 5.

*Mr. Chamberlain to High Commissioner Sir G. T. M. O'Brien.*

Sir,

*Downing Street, January 12, 1899.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 25th October, 1898,\* enclosing copy of a report by Mr. Hamilton Hunter on the condition of the inhabitants of Pitcairn Island.

2. To deport the inhabitants to Norfolk Island, as you suggest, would, I am afraid, be impossible. Apart from the fact that the Pitcairn Islanders have expressed no wish for their removal, the present state of Norfolk Island would not warrant such a measure.

3. In these circumstances, I shall be glad if you will endeavour to ascertain the possibilities of opening up communication with Tahiti. On this point, the accompanying copy of a report † by the Commanding Officer of H.M.S. "Royalist" may be of assistance to you.

I have, etc.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 6.

*Colonial Office to Admiralty.*

Sir,

*Downing Street, January 12, 1899.*

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 2nd December last, ‡ enclosing copy of a report on Pitcairn Island by the Commanding Officer of H.M.S. "Royalist," and to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copy of a correspondence § with the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific on the subject

I am, etc.,

H. BERTRAM COX.

\* No. 3.

† No. 4.

‡ Enclosure in No. 4.

§ Nos. 3 and 5.

INDEX OF CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE CONDITION OF THE  
PITCAIRN ISLANDERS.

No. of Letter.	Date.	Correspondents.	Subject.
1.	14th June, 1898.	Admiralty to Colonial Office.	Transmitting copy of a report on the island by the Commanding Officer of H.M.S. "Comus."
Enclosure 1 in No. 1.	25th April, 1898.	Rear-Admiral H. Bury Palliser to Secretary to Admiralty.	Stating that the islanders are deteriorating through intermarriage and overpopulation, suggesting the appointment of a Governor, and recommending the encouragement of emigration.
Report.	23rd Nov., 1897.	Commanding Officer of H.M.S. "Comus" to Secretary to Admiralty.	Describing the needs of the inhabitants, and discussing the physical and moral degradation arising in consequence of intermarriage and overpopulation.
Enclosure 2 in No. 1.	31st March, 1884.	Captain Doughty to Rear-Admiral Lyons.	Pointing out that the evils of overpopulation were aggravated by addition of shipwrecked mariners, that the islanders had lost much of their former activity, and that a strong stimulus for exertion was needed, and advocating the appointment of a naval officer to enforce order. Enclosing a copy of the laws and regulations of the island.



No. of Letter.	Date.	Correspondents.	Subject.
2.	9th July, 1898.	Mr. Chamberlain to High Com- missioner Sir G. T. M. O'Brien.	Forwarding copy of report in No. 1 of his observa- tions.
3.	25th Oct., 1898.	High Com- missioner Sir G. T. M. O'Brien to Mr. Chamberlain.	Transmitting copy of a report by Mr. Hunter on the condition of the islanders, and suggesting that they should be transported to Norfolk Island.
Enclosure 1 in No. 3.	12th Oct., 1898.	Mr. Hunter to High Com- missioner Sir G. T. M. O'Brien.	Commenting on the laxity in morals and weakness in intellect, and showing that the islanders were drifting into hopeless imbecility. Dissenting from the suggestion of Captain Doughty to send a naval officer to take charge, and recommend- ing the removal of the inhabitants to Fiji or the opening of regular communication with Tahiti.
Enclosure 2 in No. 3.	19th Oct., 1898.	Mr. Hunter to High Com- missioner Sir G. T. M. O'Brien.	Stating that schooners would go on to Pitcairn regularly if paid for it, and that the islanders would be welcome as labourers in Tahiti.

No. of Letter.	Date.	Correspondents.	Subject.
No. 4.	2nd Dec., 1898.	Admiralty to Colonial Office.	Enclosing a report by Commanding Officer of H.M.S. "Royalist" on a visit to the island.
Enclosure in No. 4.	5th Oct., 1898.	Commander of H.M.S. "Royalist" to Rear-Admiral H. L. Pearson.	Stating that the island presented a more barren aspect than formerly, and that droughts, af- fecting the food supply, were now prevalent con- sequent upon the de- forestation. Noting the mental and moral de- gradation of the people, and recommending the establishment of com- munication with Manga Reva Island.
No. 5.	12th Jan., 1899.	Mr. Chamberlain to High Com- missioner Sir G. T. M. O'Brien.	Observing that it would be impossible to deport the inhabitants to Nor- folk Island, and request- ing him to ascertain the possibilities of opening up communication with Tahiti.
No. 6.	12th Jan., 1899.	Colonial Office to Admiralty.	Transmitting copies of No. 3 and No. 5.

## PRÉCIS OF THE ABOVE CORRESPONDENCE.

In June, 1898, the Colonial Office received a report by Captain Dyke, of H.M.S. "Comus," respecting the condition of the Pitcairn Islanders. The document pointed out that, although the inhabitants were apparently contented and happy, yet they were degenerating physically, mentally, and morally. These results were attributed



to constant intermarriage and overpopulation. Fourteen years previously Captain Doughty, of H.M.S. "Constance," had reported in somewhat similar terms, and had indicated that the overpopulation was partly due to the accession of shipwrecked mariners. He observed the growth of slovenly habits in the cultivation of the land and the lack of all stimulus to exertion. To save the people from sinking into self-neglect and sloth, Captain Doughty had strongly advocated the appointment of an ex-naval officer to enforce order and the fulfilment of public duties.

In consequence of these reports, two independent investigations were carried out towards the end of 1898 by Mr. Hunter, a Judicial Commissioner, and by Captain Torlesse, of H.M.S. "Royalist." Mr. Hunter's remarks confirmed the statements of Captain Dyke: he, however, considered that the suggestion of Captain Doughty to send an ex-naval officer to take charge would now be useless, and advocated the removal of the people to Fiji or the opening of regular communication with Tahiti. Captain Torlesse, besides noting the mental and moral degradation mentioned by the other observers, stated that the island was losing its fertility and that this growing barrenness was due to droughts, consequent upon the deforestation of the island. These droughts seriously affected the growth of the staple foods of the people. He, too, recommended constant communication with Tahiti via Manga Reva Island. Accordingly, the Colonial Office directed the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to ascertain the possibilities of establishing such communication.

#### EXERCISE 1.

Rewrite the following, in condensed form.

(a) Have you given much attention to the study of précis-writing?

(b) The boundless plains in the heart of the empire furnished inexhaustible supplies of corn, that would have almost sufficed for twice the population.

(c) The cares and responsibilities of a sovereign often disturb his sleep.

(d) The style of this book is of such a nature that it cannot be understood.

(e) The spirit of Christianity was humanizing, and therefore it first discouraged and finally put down gladiatorial shows.

(f) This is a painful circumstance; it is a circumstance that I much regret, and he also will much regret the circumstance.

- (g) The universal opinion of all men.
- (h) Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat of it.
- (i) The New River Company has the entire monopoly of the whole trade.
- (j) The second mode is by studying the literature of a language in order of time, or chronologically, beginning with the very oldest written books, and coming down to the latest and newest.
- (k) This club treats all other clubs with an eye of contempt.
- (l) I wrote a letter to her.
- (m) Pope professed to have learnt his poetry from Dryden, whom, whenever an opportunity presented, he praised through the whole period of his existence with unvaried liberality; and perhaps his character may receive some illustration if a comparison be instituted between him and the man whose pupil he was.
- (n) After I have been a walk, I will begin to work.
- (o) We must not think that we can reach the station by seven o'clock, unless we hurry.
- (p) That the emigrants would have enjoyed greater prosperity in America, if they had not been shipwrecked, seems highly probable.
- (q) He has undertaken to speak for me, which is very kind of him; but I greatly doubt whether his intercession will be of any avail.
- (r) Though she did not possess a fortune, she had the means of living comfortably.
- (s) Both of them were present.
- (t) They partook of the cup that cheers but not inebriates.
- (u) When do you expect that your brother will visit you?
- (v) Cold produces ice, and heat dissolves ice.
- (w) The scholars were at the exhibition last night, where they saw some fine scenic effects.
- (x) When he heard this, he advanced.
- (y) Trade and industry received a mighty stimulus from the invention of the locomotive by George Stephenson.
- (z) It was that man's ambition that sustained him under such unexpected difficulties.

## EXERCISE 2.

(Make a *précis* of each of the ensuing short extracts.)

- (1) So that if the invention of the ship was thought so noble, which carrieth riches and commodities from place to place, and