

P.S. Writing Pads just arrived
& many thanks. Also will
you please pay an account
which will probably arrive
shortly from Tilley lamp
co? It will only be a few
shillings so I don't want
to ask Harry for a cheque.

No. 1. of 1934'

Betio.

Tarawa.

Central Pacific.

Jan: 15th 1934

Dearest Lady Maude,

We had a wonderful budget from you & Sir Walter this last mail which came just after Christmas. Ten letters & now we have received all your letters up to the end of October with the exception of one in the middle of August but I may have mislaid it. We received a lot of magazines & papers too & have been thoroughly enjoying ourselves after two strenuous weeks whilst M^r & M^{rs} Barley were here. As a matter of fact I spent most of last week in bed as I wasn't feeling at all fit.

I think the new R.C. is going to be very nice to work under, one great thing is that he is interested in the natives & the Group. The missionaries here, particularly the R.C.'s think Harry's ideas are revolutionary & are all out to get him removed but I think they will expire when they hear what H.H. intends doing. Poor old Harry only sticks to the law as it is written but he

has also explained all the laws to the various native Governments. Some of these laws make it clear, for instance, that although a native will be punished for practising sozery (i.e. anything which interferes ~~with~~ with the peace, freedom or life of another person, in other words harmful practices) magic, which only concerns the person performing it & such as is used for making up songs, building houses & heaps of other things, is not punishable by law. The Catholics say that Administrative officers should either not explain this or else give the impression that it is all bad & should be punished. They also want the government to force all natives to be Christians, I really can't see what satisfaction they could get from that because they would not be real Christians. They say that as long as a native knows he won't be imprisoned or fined for not being a Christian they won't become Christians. I should say that that is their job not ours. The new codified laws came into force soon after our arrival; Harry is the only man who has conscientiously carried out those laws & he is most unpopular with the missionaries. However, Mr Barley says Harry is right, these are the laws & it's his job to see that they are carried out.

The missionaries would be the first to scream if he slipped up on a law which they happened to like. Arthur Tuckey may have told you that there are an awful lot of regulations here, the natives can't move without coming up against one, but Mr Barley is going to try & have some of them done away with. The lies the P.C.'s have told ~~Harry~~ Mr Barley about Harry is awful, it's a mercy he is used to missionaries. How any person calling himself a christian can lie like these people beats me, their minds too are just beastly, they see "bad things" in any action, even girls laughter. This trade is really because of the R.C.'s behaviour! Harry says that if I wanted him to become an earnest christian this is the last place I should have brought him to. The protestants are not too bad but I think I should admire much more a man working in the East End of London & living there, these people have a wonderful time compared with them. Can you honestly give me any reason why a small christian native girl, at any rate up to the age of 9 or 10, should wear more than a grass skirt? Or, why a boy or man should ever wear a vest, shirt or coat? I'm afraid I can't see the necessity.

The Catholic Bishop actually told Mr Barley that since Harry had taken over the central Gilberts there had been a great revival of dancing & dancing after regulation hours. If there has it has nothing to do with Harry, he hasn't once allowed dancing after hours unless we were watching; at several islands children were watching which is against the rules & he had them turfed out, he has in fact, tightened up the dancing regulations. Now, Armstrong who is an R.C. has allowed natives to dance all night, a thing Harry has never allowed, but Armstrong is their blue eyed boy & can do no wrong. Its simply disgusting.

Mr Barley, to look at, is a wee bit like Mr Quimble & scares me rather, I don't like his mouth at all, but I think he means what he says. Mrs Barley is I should say very much younger, they were only married last year, just how old she is I couldn't make out, sometimes I thought younger than myself but at other times older. She has a streak of grey hair right across the front of her head, its rather effective really. She was very nice anyhow, I liked her. We all went up to Butāritāri, then to Abaiang & then Maiana. At Abaiang it poured with rain & we were drenched several times but we

were jolly glad to get the rain. At Maiana it hadn't rained. It took 7 hours to sail ashore there, the boat was full, we were very cramped & I thought we'd never get there. We were sailing from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.!

I wasn't sick, for a wonder, on "Ōmanoa" but we had fairly good weather. We don't quite know when we shall get away from here but when we do we are to go to Tabitūea so it will be sometime ^{before} ~~until~~ you get another letter I expect. I'll leave one here & after that there is sure to be a big gap.

We were, of course, surprised to hear of Walter's marriage, anyhow it's a mercy Barbara didn't get him. So Barbara went off at last, I wonder where she will end up. Barbara must have a sense of humour to use the name "Teetham", one can't help feeling sorry for Mr. Hitchcock though anyone could have told him what he was letting himself in for. How has it affected old Mr. Sayer? I loved hearing all about the family party, it is difficult to think of Mona as nearly leaving school, what sort of work does she intend to take up eventually?

You certainly had a good draught in your

part of the world, it appears to have been really serious in some parts of England. No, we didn't notice those shooting stars but there may have been some. Our drought broke last week & we had about 4 inches I think, of rain but since then no more. However it filled tanks to some extent & laid the dust.

"Nimanoa" has just returned from Ocean Island & has brought a small mail but no letters from you. I don't know why as two from Mother, the last Nov: 14th — my mistake, just found yours of Nov: 15th, I've got such a muddle on my table & just had Capt. Holland & Mr Blackie unexpectedly to lunch & I'm all in a whirl. Harry's shirts have arrived & he will be delighted with a change of colouring. I'm thrilled about the box of things but unfortunately they haven't arrived yet. "Nimanoa" is returning to Ocean so it may have arrived by the time she gets there. Thanks awfully for ordering the sunshade, the colour didn't matter at all & I only wanted that particular kind of woven raffia. I'm sorry we didn't enclose the letter of Major Swinbourne, we'll try to remember what it was & send it on later, there won't be time now.

write very much love to you all yours loving Honor

No. 2 of 1934.

APR. 1934

Tarawa Island.

Central Pacific.

Feb. 12th 1934.

Dearest Lady Maude,

"Himanua" is leaving quite unexpectedly for Ocean Island in a couple of hours & I haven't got your letter ready. However, I'll try to give you some idea of what we have been doing.

First of all, did I tell you the parcel had arrived & that I was very thrilled with everything in it, thank you very much indeed.

Since I last wrote we have done a lot of travelling up & down the island & I have been left alone several times whilst the other two were hassing round the lagoon. Our first trip was across to the Native Government Station to attend the "Bowi" (Court). We had a dreadful trip & I was really frightened during the first hour, it was awfully rough & we, & everything in the boat, ~~was~~ were drenched. The "Britannia"

the sailing boat, is fast but too light & jumpy
 for this lagoon on a rough day, she behaves rather
 like "Tumanoa"! We arrived at our destination
 after 4 hours with a broken gaff, fortunately
 it broke near the end of the trip, but otherwise
 none the worse. The wind got worse after that
 & I flatly refused to sail back the next day, the
 two men didn't seem fearfully keen either! The
 day after that Macdonald sailed back but Harry
 & I started off on bicycles meaning to sleep at
 a village half way round the island. However,
 when we reached the light it seemed calmer
 & we were in a better position for sailing
 down so we borrowed a Chinese trader's
 boat, a good solid craft, & we had a good trip.
 That was Friday, we got back about 5.30 p.m.
 On Sunday morning we went up to Bairiki to
 spend the day & to sleep there so that we could
 leave first thing in the morning on a cycling
 tour of the whole island. On Monday morning
 we got away in good time & by 1 p.m. were in

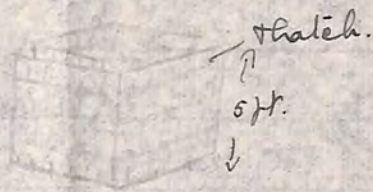
The middle of the light where we had lunch ^{or the sketch.} The road ended just beyond Bikenibee & although it looks as if there was a good thick piece of land up there there isn't. We cycled for about 2 miles over a rocky flat & then sand as there was no more road until we reached Bonriki. This is where we slept, in a house right in the middle of the village. The houses haven't any walls either but we didn't like to say we'd rather have a house at the end of the village.

This particular house was beautifully made with an extra strong floor. It was too firm for my liking; it is the hardest floor I've slept on yet! Instead of being made of coconut midrib, which is fairly spongy, this floor was made of bin. slats of coconut wood with no give in it at all. This is what a house looks like.

A "sleeping" house this, an "eating" house is quite different.



This is a bath house & explains, I think, why neither of us had a bath in that village. Please remember it was in the middle of the village & people were passing to & fro all the time.



The next day, Tuesday, Harry got dressed at 5 a.m. while it was still dark as he said he couldn't be seen in red pyjamas! We had breakfast & then, as the wind was good & I had a bit of a pain in my side, we borrowed a canoe & sailed up to Abarkoro. We had just cycled down that bit so it didn't matter. We also had a big boat canoe with our gear & food & the boys gear. Everyone said the boat canoe would get to Abarkoro first, easily & they certainly got away better than we did. However, about half-way up we overtook them near some shallows, they had their sail down & were preparing to tack. Ruka, our new cook who was with us & ~~at~~

steering, proved to be an absolute marvel + got us past innumerable large patches of shallows without a single tack. Of course we got to Abakoro first, when the others did eventually arrive ~~at~~ we heard that they had capsized the canoe! We're sure they were fooling, anyhow they ruined some of our food, biscuits + cake I'd specially made, all their own food except rice was spoilt + all their clothes + bedding. I was very glad indeed that I'd insisted on our taking my dressing case + our bedding; though I'd no idea they were going to capsize.

That day we stayed at Abakoro but the following day cycled up to the north, past all the villages, there are more than I've marked, to a point called Naa. We didn't sleep up there, spent an hour or so in Buariki + then returned to Abakoro. We spent another day at Abakoro + the following day, Friday, hearing that "Nimanoa" had, quite unexpectedly,

returned to Tarawa, we sailed back to Betio.

"Nimanoa" wasn't here, it was only a rumour, but Macdonald had left that morning by launch for Buota village as the "Macquarie" was up there & there was trouble amongst the workers. The natives had had a meeting at which it had been decided to demand more pay for loading the copra as the price of copra had gone down & they were, in consequence, feeling badly off. Then 30 men went & worked at the old wage & the strikers were furious with them for breaking their promise. That night ^{of the workers} 3 "batai" pits were completely destroyed & later on more pits were wrecked & two pieces of land were mutilated. Things looked rather serious & Harry decided to go up the island too, the launches were high & dry so he had to cycle. He left here about 8 p.m. the next morning Macdonald came back but he hadn't seen or heard of Harry! I expected him to return with Mac in the launch & as

he hadn't & supposed he would be cycling back that evening as Mac said all was quiet. Mac was going to Baijiki for the week-end so I went up too to see M^{rs} Holland meaning to walk back with Harry & if he didn't turn up, we thought he might wait on the "Macquarie", I'd sleep at Baijiki. Unfortunately Harry got a canoe & sailed back but I didn't hear until 8 p.m. & it is a long walk across the passage so I stayed with the Hollands & walked back next morning.

For a time it looked as though things might get nasty & Harry & Mac were constantly up & down the island. Now there are Police patrolling the villages, the people have calmed down & are now getting a bit scared of the Govt. & Harry has tried 9 people for "Unlawful Assembly" & found them guilty. Bose', a Tujian we have here, has been up the island for some days & has roped in 6 people for the destruction of

the pits. The trouble has been that the natives were afraid to give evidence lest their pits too should be destroyed. "Nimauwa" is going over to fetch the Major but we're hoping she may be stopped at the last minute now that Harry has wired that the island is quiet. I'll try & get a copy of Harry & Mac's report on the trouble later.

Harry's been terribly worried poor dear, but it's all right now. I might add that my weight is somewhere round about 7 st. 8 lbs. & I see no chance of ever getting fatter!

Ever so much love to you all from us both.

Your loving,
Honor

Tarawa Island.

Naa

→ Buariki

0 miles

→ Abaokoro (Navy Station)

Chinese Trader here.

Relio

Right

Buata

Buariki

Buariki

Tauasauka

aita

Bikaraku

* land here

There are many more breaks in the land than are shown here.

8 MAY 1934

No. 3 of 1934.

Tarawa Island.

March 1st 1934.

Dearest Lady Maude,

We have been very lucky lately having had two mails from Ocean Island. We have received all your letters up to the end of December which is very good. The sunshade has not arrived yet but parcels always take longer, I shall probably get it next mail. I haven't really needed one here, the new one will be just in time for our next lot of journeys.

I think I must have told you in my last letter that Major Swinbourne was coming over, he has now been here 10 days & I have a houseful of men. We are not quite sure when we shall be returning to the south but probably in a few weeks time. From news we have received from Ocean Island it would appear that the poor old Major has again let the correspondence get

hopelessly behindhand & M^r Barley is tearing his hair & ~~knashing~~ gnashing his teeth in rage & despair. Apparently files were found hidden away in his room after he came here & the fat is properly in the fire. I can't help feeling sorry for the Major but he is so hopeless. He wastes his time & everyone else's, day after day, & he jumps at the slightest excuse ~~not~~ to postpone working at his files. Harry says he lies too, it seems to become a habit out here, you can hardly believe a word anybody says.

There has been no more disturbance on the island & a lot of natives are in gaol. Rose actually found about 15 people who wrecked pits, an excellent bit of work, & some of those have confessed & given names of others. You ask if we have "diabolo", yes, we have & had quite a lot of fun with it at Beru but the natives couldn't master it, nor can I! We are quite definitely not going to Fanning Island, at present no one

is there as it seems probable that the copra business there will have to be shut down.

Washington Island has already been closed. Fanning, Washington & Christmas are part of this colony, goodness knows why, we have no communication with them except once in 18 months or so.

The two Calendars arrived last mail, they are beauties, we love them & thank you very much indeed. I've just cut out a pattern

of a parrot's kettle holder, it isn't quite the same as the old one but I think I like it better.

The collar should be a separate strip of leather, it hides the sewing where you join head & body.

The old one had a tail but I like it better without, also, the body used to be lined with a cheaper leather, slightly smaller than the outer piece. If you ^{make} many could I have one please, I should like to send one to D^r Gould?

Alick sent us a print of a black & white sketch he got into the school magazine. It's very

good indeed, isn't it? I hadn't realised he was a budding artist.

I'm remembering to date my letters now, & always forgot about the different years. This is the third this year but I forgot to number the second one. I'm afraid Harry has had his first touch of lumbago, for no apparent reason either. The doctor said it was muscular & it seemed to hurt in the right place, I hope to goodness he doesn't develop the beastly thing. I certainly think having his teeth out was a good thing, he has had no more throat trouble, swollen glands & fever which Mae said was tonsils. His general health is better too just as mine is. We're both taking Kalyana at the moment, I found they had it in the store & it should be an excellent thing for here. I hope it will help to keep my teeth from going. So far they have done very well &, touch wood, no

fillings have fallen out yet. either the dentist in Auckland was very good or else being able to wear my small plate saves my front teeth; I used to have to chew everything with them.

We have just seen, quite by chance, in an Australian paper that there has been a very bad earthquake in Bihar & Orissa. The news there is very meagre & we are wondering where Mary & Arthur were & how Wynne Sayer fared. It sounds a horrible thing & apparently the Pusa Agricultural College was badly damaged? We were glad to hear that Mabel was really feeling better & hope the South African climate will effect a cure.

8th March. Great excitement this last week, we were to proceed to Beira via Ocean Island & had packed nearly everything when we were told to postpone our trip! However we are to return to Beira, or the Southern Quilbet's, next month so we

shall leave the things packed.

I'm amusing myself endeavouring to look after the chickens properly & getting them to lay. To my surprise I have been very successful & this week, from about 20 laying hens, we have had 50 eggs in 4 days. Before I really took an intelligent interest in these very same hens we were lucky if we got 10 eggs in a week. Both Mrs Holland & Major Swinbourne gave me tips, I added one or two ideas myself & feel very bucked with the result. They get nothing but local food; coconut, a little fish or crabs, mummy apple leaves, babai leaves, & scraps from the kitchen which includes remains of mummy apples minced (my idea) which I'm sure must be good.

I had two wee chicks in the house as pets & they had reached the stage where they would follow me & loved sitting in my hand. Then, sad to relate, a cat ate them one night the brute. They had been in the house some days, just covered with

a duster so I thought they were quite safe. I'd just made a wee house from a cardboard box & the cat knocked it off evidently.

"Nimanoa" leaves tomorrow for Ocean Island & the Ellice Islands & will be away a month. Then she will bring the Major over & we shall go south. Later I believe, about July, we shall have to come back here for a short time as the Major goes on leave just before Armstrong returns. After that there is a possibility of Harry becoming Lands' Commissioner & he thinks he would begin work in the south.

I must stop, Harry is tearing his hair, he is frantically busy, the Major is truculent & Mac obstinate so I'd better see that there is a good lunch!

With much love from us both,

Your loving
Honor.

No. 4. of 1934.

R⁴
10 JUNE 1934

Tarawa.

P. & E. I. C.

March 18th 1934.

Dearest Lady Maude,

One again "Nimauva" has returned unexpectedly & brought us a mail. She is leaving again in a few days for the Ellice Is. & then back to Ocean Island without making another call here so I'm sending letters with her as we may not get another chance for some time. I don't suppose she will reach Ocean Is. for a month or so but then she brings the Major here & takes us South I believe.

It was lovely to get another mail, we had two letters from you, but poor old Harry, just when he thought he was going to sit back for a bit, is buried once more in official mail. I can see myself typing once more as he has none

who can really help him now. Did I tell you about Kaobunang, the Interpreter? Ever since we came to Tarawa, his home island, he had been playing up, eventually he said he was ill, Harry gave him a rest, then he said he wanted 3 months sick leave, there was no doctor here so Harry let Kaobunang go but he was to be medically examined when D^r Young returned. The doctor reported, as we had rather suspected, knowing Kaobunang's previous record, that he was quite fit & should return to work. Kaobunang then wrote an official letter saying he was ill in spite of what the doctor might say & he resigned. I think he'll be sacked actually. Harry has two boys in the office at present whom he is training as Interpreters. I'm to start giving them typewriting lessons this week. My own knowledge of typing, though it's only the groundwork, has been most useful.

M^r Compton has come over on "Nimanwa"

• will be staying with us for a few days. Macdonald has gone over to Ahaiang for a couple of weeks to take two murder trials. In one case we think the man will be hung, (the sentence is usually commuted to life or only 10 yrs) this murder was very brutal, the man has a very bad record indeed & murders are becoming rather too frequent these days. Harry & I had been enjoying having the house to ourselves for a bit.

We hear quite a lot about the Taps coveting the Gilberts, we've had scares when some suspicious & exceedingly fast Tap ships have been found snooping round & poaching, that was before Mr Brimble left. Lately they haven't been heard of ^{nor} seen of. Of course the Taps are very near us in the Marshall Is. & we have a Tap firm at Butaitari & a schooner running from here to Jaluit. Harry talks of sending home Pacific magazines he wants to keep, I'll

see if I can find the one about those ships. They were all over the Pacific. I believe Capt. Spain, when he was drunk, used to think the Japanese were coming & dig trenches in the sand!

My cook's wife & my assistant wash girl are learning to crochet & the thick cotton you sent is most useful for beginners. The wash girl is also learning drawn thread work, she has done a little quite well but is impatient at drawing out threads. I've made a new sponge bag with a piece of the american cloth sort of stuff you sent, & am keeping the rest for future use. You remember the machine parts you sent? I can't quite make out what they all are, could you get instructions for the darning, & recognise that?

19th

Harry brought along the parcel from Barkers this morning & I am delighted with the sunshade, it is nicer than the

one I had before & has tips I see on the spokes which will lengthen its life out here, that was the trouble with my old one, the stuff rotted where it was sewn on. Harry is very pleased with his stockings, they are a lighter weight than those he had before & very much nicer for this climate - I hope they won't be such beasts to wash! Harry does love them so, he will persist in wearing them with trousers.

My chickens laid 55 eggs last week which was very good considering the number they laid the week before 86, & they have started this week with 9 eggs yesterday. The eggs are much larger than an ordinary native fowl lays, I weighed one the other day & it just turned the scales at 29. & they actually fill an egg cup. I am wondering whether 7 wee chicks I have will grow up into good sized chickens as they are getting the benefit of good food.

Macdonald, we heard yesterday, expects to return on Wednesday, he is having a hard time with the bad murder & dare not try the man until he has collected all the evidence. It would be awful if the man got out because he will most certainly murder his wife who has given evidence against him. Everyone is scared of the man & say they can't sleep until he is removed from the island, they have got him both leg ironed & handcuffed too!

Your two calendars are very much admired, they really are lovely.

With very much love from us both,

Your loving,

Honor

No. 5. of 1934.

Bethio, F

Tarawa,

21st April, 1934.

Dearest Lady Maude,

"Nimanoa" came in yesterday & brought us a nice large mail. We received 3 from you but two are still missing, I can't think where they can be. Harry promised me he would write to you this mail but once again has not had a moment. He really does work hard & as it is all letter writing I haven't the heart to bully him into writing in any spare moment he may have. I have been typewriting for him & things are more or less up to date & he says that after the work here the running of the Southern Gilberts should be child's play & he really will write to you soon. "Nimanoa" returns to Ocean Island this afternoon or tomorrow, brings Major Swinbourne & the new Cadet back here & after repairing her engine which

will take about two weeks, we are to go to Bevu unless we can get there on some other vessel. The "John Williams" is here at present & will be going round the north in about 15 days time, we hope to go on her, tour the north & then go south with her, if Mr Barley will agree. The "Kalam" leaves to day for all islands south & also Ellice Islands & ~~Suva~~ Suva, she won't be back till July. The "Macquarie" is stuck at Butaritari & though she may make one more trip before the loading ship comes she hasn't enough coal to go farther south than about half-way to Bevu & the old "Mauno" is laid up for good. So you can see we are in rather a bad way these days, there hasn't been a ship from Sydney since last October & inter island communications have very nearly stopped. Our stores arrived at Ocean Island this time just in time to catch "Himanoa" which was lucky & our next opportunity will be the

Recruiting vessel about August.

We heard yesterday that Harry is to be Lands Commissioner & will probably start work in August. We may have to come back to Tarawa for a few weeks in July which is annoying but can't be helped. I only hope we are not landed with the entertaining of the warship.

Many thanks for the piece of work, it is very pretty indeed, I'm not sure that I know how to work it but will have a shot at it anyway. Walter's letter arrived this mail too, everyone was very lucky to escape as lightly as they did. We have often discussed what would happen here if there was a terrific upheaval & we found ourselves, supposing we survived, sitting on the top of a mountain! Coconuts would die of course, aeroplanes might rescue us by landing on the dry lagoon but it would seem probable that the stench of dead fish would kill us long before help could come. I wonder!

Presumably there is a sunken continent under the Pacific & these islands are the mountain tops.

Ruby wrote & told me she had seen you all & it was awfully nice to hear from her of you & of course, vice versa. She says she is getting too fat. She thought your house simply huge apparently. Thank you for the description of the purse; when we start on the lands we shall probably go to Aeorae first, that is where they do the panamas, so I shall have to see if we can evolve something. I'm hoping to get a nice selection of hats made to bring home but we shall be only a month there I expect & the preparation of the material takes a long time.

I had a disgusting thing happen to me last week. I went to have a shower before dinner & as I turned on the shower I thought something smelt a bit nasty however I carried on & afterwards had a look round to see if I could find anything, then I went up

into the roof where the tank is + there, in our bath water, was a dead rat. I felt foul so I got the boys on to cleaning out the tank & making me a hot bath!

Harry now says that he doesn't think it would be wise for us to leave here in July next year as it would mean that we hadn't finished three years & we should lose quite a lot of leave whereas if we wait until the beginning of 1936 we shall have finished 3 months years & also 6 years resident service & qualify for a grant towards our passage home which may be better than than it is now. So I'm afraid we shall not see England before the spring of 1936. I feel rather sad but I think Harry is right. When we went to 17.2. we hadn't been here quite 3 years so we lost about $1\frac{1}{2}$ months leave. Whether we shall stick it for so long remains to be seen, so far we've kept remarkably well & both swear by Kalyana, I know it's helped

me + Harry is sure he is better since he's been taking it too. As usual with this store they had 6 tins of kalzana of which we had 3 + the Hollands 2, now there are no more + none ordered so we shall have none now until July I suppose as I've ordered from Australia.

As to which way we shall travel home we haven't decided yet but I think either across Canada or through the Panama canal - I'm trying to get particulars about prices etc.

I think Harry still has an idea of spending some time at Cambridge but anthropology is very much neglected these days, we never have a moment to spare. He was talking too of "Eating his dinners".

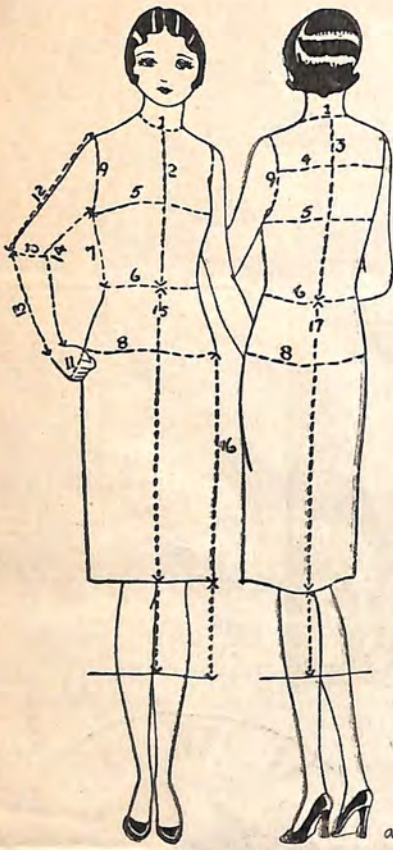
I want to have some cooking lessons, learn how to cut hair properly, I always cut Harry's + would like to know more of the art, + I want to learn how to mend shoes.

I really need some experience of entertaining, giving dinners etc.

The great drawback to this place is, of course,

Self-Measurement Form for Any Pattern to be Cut to Measure.

(See this page for prices.)



Bodice Measurements.

1. Neck (round base)
2. Front (neck to waist)
3. Back (neck to waist)
4. Across Back (between shoulders)
5. Bust (right round figure)
6. Waist
7. Under Arm (armhole to waist) .. .
8. Hips (5½ inches from waist)
9. Armhole
10. Round Elbow
11. Round Closed Hand
12. Shoulder to Elbow
13. Elbow to Hand (at back of arm)
14. Armhole to Hand (front of arm)

14 inches
~~15~~ 15 "
 34 "
 27 "
 9 "
 36½ "
 17 "

Skirt Measurements.

TO MEASURE.—Place a firm belt round the waist, and measure to lower edge. Notice the two lengths marked on the figure—one length is to just below the knees, the other to the calf of the leg. Measure to length required.

5. Front .. . *To floor (no heels)*
6. Side
7. Back
8. Hips (5½ inches from waist)
6. Waist

40½
 41½
 41½

Special Instructions—if any!

ORDER FORM FOR CUT-TO-MEASURE PATTERNS.

"EVERYLADY'S JOURNAL" (Fashion Dept.),
 230-236 Stanley St., West Melb., C.3, Vic.

Enclosed please find postal note for
 for which post me pattern (or patterns) cut
 to measure at prices stated according to meas-
 urements given above. I enclose illustration
 of the pattern (or patterns) I wish cut.

Name

Address

(Name State or Dominion.)

that everything has to be supervised by the hostess & most of the cooking done by her too.

Will you please buy Sir Walter something for his birthday, also Joan & Bobbitt when their birthdays come along & Muriel, I don't suppose I shall have another opportunity of writing before July. Would you please ask Muriel if she could get a couple of frocks for me next time she is in London? I'd be very grateful if she could & I enclose my measurements. I want an afternoon frock, something washable but out of the ordinary, & a semi evening frock, the new R.D. insists on dressing more or less, for dinner, wherever he is as far as I can see, I'd like something I can wear black moccasin shoes with as that's all I've got - or gold kid, which I'm told aren't worn now, but I have a pair which I don't intend to scrap. I'll leave colours & material to her as she knows tropical climates & also my colouring.

I enclose a cheque, I haven't any idea how prices are these days but please let me know if I haven't sent enough.

If you are wanting to send Harry anything at any time I know he'd like some cricket shirts, light flannel ones, the size of his collar is $15\frac{1}{4}$ or $15\frac{1}{2}$."

With very much love to you all from us both.

Your loving,

Honor.

No. 6. of 1934.

Betio,

Tarawa.

26th April, 1934.

Dear Sir Walter,

Just a short letter to wish you many Happy Returns of your birthday & may this arrive somewhere near the right time.

There are no less than three ships in here at the moment & all just about to leave so you can imagine how everyone is tearing round. Mr^s Macdonald is packing up & leaves for Ocean Island to-day or tomorrow. When he has gone we shall finish packing as we are due to leave in 2 or 3 weeks time.

We badly want to go to Tahiteua but I don't think there will be a ship to take us which is most disappointing. Harry has to take a murder trial at Beer & I don't suppose "Yumanoa" would be allowed to wait for him to finish it. We have been stationed here for

eight months but we have never unpacked properly as we have been just about to go ever since we came.

We haven't quite made up our minds about Mr. Barley yet, they say he is working himself to death but the poor man was faced with such a tremendous pile of arrears that he won't get anywhere unless he does work at all hours. He seemed very keen on the Group when he arrived & said he would cut down office work, so far he has only piled it on but he wants to get a grasp of things first naturally which means officers sending in reports on this & that. He has got the expenses of the Lands Commission passed & work is to begin in August, Harry is very pleased & life should be rather pleasant doing that work.

With love from us both,

Yours affectionately,

Honor

No 7 9 1934.

28 JULY 1934

a.s. "John Williams V",

At sea,

24th May, 1934.

Dear Family,

I'm feeling rather pleased with myself actually rising to letter writing while at sea! I must admit that it isn't rough though it is not by any means a flat calm, but the J.W. is very comfortable and ever so much steadier than "Nimanoa".

Major Swinbourne and the new Cadet, Cartwright, arrived at Tarawa on the 7th May, The lagoon that day looked like glass and all the islets could be seen right round the island, Cartwright of course thought the place marvellous, so it was, but it is the first time it had been like that since we came to Tarawa 8 months ago. On the 8th I was feverishly packing from 6a.m. until after 10p.m. as it was suddenly decided that we should leave for Abaiang, by sailing boat, that night at 3a.m.

Harry had done the trip by boat before but it was my first experience of travelling between two islands by boat and it was quite an adventure. We got away from the

harbour just before 3a.m., it was a lovely night though the wind was not in quite the right quarter but we sailed along very comfortably and had crossed the lagoon by dawn. We crossed the reef with a few bumps and set off to cross the seven miles of open sea to Abaiang. I think we were in Abaiang lagoon by about 9a.m. but from there we had to tack to make the Government Station and did not land until 11.30. The boat was piled up with luggage upon which we made ourselves as comfortable as we could but it was rather cramped. We also had with us a very unpleasant murderer, Harry was going to Abaiang to try him, and as soon as we left the harbour at Tarawa the Policeman in charge of him removed all his handcuffs etc. which he had been wearing for the last month or so!

We stayed at Abaiang until the 14th, I went up to see Mrs. Spivey, the missionary's wife, several times and Harry was busy with the murder trial. The island is most beautifully green, they have had plenty of rain there and it looks as though one could grow most things there. One of the R.C. stations is really lovely, the Father has a variety of coloured bushes growing, several banana pits and some big flame trees. He gave me the seeds of a shrub which has red leaves but the top of it is redder still, a wonderful

colour and I do hope it will grow at Beru.

We were up at 5a.m. on the 14th so as to have plenty of time to sail out to the ship before 7a.m. Of course there wasn't a breath of wind ~~but~~ we had all kinds of improvised oars and paddles to help us along and arrived just in time. We sailed for the island of Marakei which we reached the same day at 4.30p.m. That is where my friend Kimakei lives and she soon came rushing along to greet us and spent most of the time with us during the two days we were there. We were most disappointed with the island, we had always understood from Mr.Grimble and also from Dr.Young that Marakei was the pearl of the Gilberts but in our opinion it comes very low on the list, a most uninteresting and rocky sort of place. We cycled right round it just before we left, it took us 1¼ hours but it was a bit of a rush, however you can judge by that that it is not a very large island. I went to see the two Sisters and found one of them struggling with an awful mob of girls, they are an unruly lot on Marakei. We left Marakei at 5p.m. on the 16th and sailed for Butaritari which we reached the next morning at 10 o'clock. It is a good way from the anchorage to the Government station so the launch towed us as near as they could, it was low tide and too shallow to take us to the jetty

although it is about half a mile long. In nearly all the islands it is an awful job to get ashore at low tide, it is too shallow to sail, even in a canoe, and it is too wet to walk. I had two carrying chairs made, just two poles with a square of canvas in the middle and it is very comfortable. It was very muggy at Butaritari and it rained a good deal every day, it certainly made the island look fresh but I prefer a dry climate. We didn't do any sight seeing at Butaritari, Harry was pretty busy and the boys and I took the opportunity of washing all the clothes we could lay our hands on while we could have as much rain water as we wanted. We went to see Capt. and Mrs. Heyen and had lunch with them one day, they still have no news of a loading ship for them and they are running short of provisions again, the Captain is tired of being ashore with nothing much to do too, they have been there for nine weeks I think. I visited the Sisters, they have quite a large school there for half-caste girls, quite nice buildings they have too and four Sisters. The Father there has always been a thorn in the flesh of the Government, he must be a dreadful man by all accounts, at one time the Sisters were not allowed to go to him alone to confess! I wonder why they don't chuck him out. We were nearly eaten alive by mosquitoes and had to retire to our beds at 7p.m.

every evening. We left Butaritari on the 20th at 5p.m., we very nearly had to chase the ship outside the lagoon, we were late getting alongside and if the donkey engine, or whatever they call the thing that pulls up the anchor, hadn't broken down once or twice we should have been left behind. However, we arrived just in time. The next island was Makin which we reached next morning at 9a.m. This is the most northerly island in the Gilbert Group and neither of us had visited it before. It is a really lovely spot, a small reef island, very fertile and although there had been a lot of rain there it wasn't humid. The Govt. Station is beautifully kept, there are hedges all round it, the roads are lined with huge lillies and under the coconut trees there is a carpet of lovely green grass. We sailed by canoe to one of the villages, we thought that just we and perhaps two or three boys would be going down but when we started off we found that most of the Government officials were coming too. They are so proud of their island that they all came to point out the beauty spots and to help us to take photos. We ended the day by taking a snap of all of them sitting on the flag staff. On the way to the village we noticed two huge boulders,

really enormous things, sitting up on the reef. We asked how they got there and were told that about one hundred years ago the smaller of the two was thrown up by the waves during a bad storm; in those days Makin was one island with any passages, then another very bad storm came and the second boulder was thrown up and the waves were so strong that they broke over the island in several places and now there are several passages. They say that there is another tremendous boulder in the lagoon, we saw it, just below where the others are and that some day there will be another storm which will throw it up beside the others but in that storm the whole of Makin will surely be wrecked as the waves will have to be so strong to move this stone. Only 10 or 12 years ago they had a bad storm there which swept over the point of one of the islets and now there is only scrub there. At Makin they sometimes get the tail end of a hurricane from the Marshall Islands, it must certainly have been some storm that threw up those boulders. Unfortunately we had only one day at Makin, we did not even sleep there, Harry went for a walk further up the island when we returned from the village but I was tired and had a headache, so I missed seeing a coconut with two heads.

Harry took a photo of it which I hope develops all right.

We left Makin at 9p.m. the same day, the 21st. and sailed for Abaiang to drop Mr. Spivey. We arrived there at 6.30p.m. the following evening and just managed to scrape into the lagoon but were unable to get to the anchorage before dark. We stayed on board until the next morning as it would have meant a long trip ashore and there was nothing for us to do. We landed the next day, there was no Government work but we had to go to see the R.C. Father some way up the island so we got two bicycles, both mens of course, and had a lovely ride up the island. Harry had one spill, the roads were rather slippery and he came an awful cropper but somehow managed to fall on his hands and feet and didn't get very dirty although he fell in the middle of a puddle. I think Abaiang is one of the nicest islands and it would be topping if they put the Government Headquarters there, there was some talk of doing so, I believe there is about 40miles of land without any passages and it would be a lovely place for a small car. The lagoon too is a particularly nice one and ideal for sailing, it isn't rough like the Tarawa lagoon as it faces differently and is sheltered from the prevailing wind and yet there is

enough to make good sailing. We returned to the ship the same afternoon to write letters etc. and sailed first thing this morning. We are now nearing Tarawa.

26th May.

We got all our luggage on board at Tarawa without too much of a rush and sailed again at 5.30p.m. Harry had a private telegram from Mr. Barley saying that Dr. Macpherson has asked for another 6 months leave which has upset his plans. I think he intended that Macpherson should combine the duties of doctor and Administrative Officer while Mr. Kennedy had leave. He now asks if Harry can start the Lands Commission on Beru and if so he will send Cartwright down to take over the Southern Gilberts District, under Harry's supervision for a month or so. Presumably Macdonald is to be sent to the Ellice to relieve Mr. Kennedy because he was to have taken over from Harry. The Major was dying to know what was in the telegram but Harry wouldn't tell him, if Mr. Barley wanted him to know he would, presumably, have sent an ordinary official telegram. He will be as mad as a hatter when he hears that Cartwright is to be taken away from him and put under Harry, he's as pleased as punch at present and shepherds

Cartwright round like a broody hen with chicks. Cartwright says he has done absolutely nothing since we left Tarawa except sort out drawing pins and address them by the right! Poor old Major, he is absolutely potty but can't help it.

To day we are at Nonouti dropping native passengers Harry has gone ashore but I thought it better to stay on board and finish letters and also keep my sea legs as I felt a bit sea sick yesterday but more or less alright this morning, in fact I got up and bathed before we reached the island.

We shall be at Tabiteuea tomorrow we expect and Beru on Monday morning with any luck. The J.W. leaves Beru again on Wednesday and will get to Suva just in time to catch a good mail home the Captain tells me. Father Choblet, our old friend, will be very disappointed to hear that we are going to stay on Beru after all, we heard that he was glad when he heard that we intended staying at Tabiteuea. We hope to be able to go there for a few weeks but I don't know whether we shall manage it. It depends how soon Cartwright is sent down and also how soon the Lands Commission is to open.

There is an awfully nice crowd on the "John Williams" Captain Hope Evans, a Welshman and simply huge and very jolly; Mr. Kettle, he used to be Captain of the old J.W.

and fell on hard times apparently, he is quiet but very nice. There is a second mate, a Chief Engineer, a Scotsman of course, and a Steward. The Steward comes from Lancashire and is rather difficult to understand, Harry is hopeless, he is always getting things he doesn't want because he is too petrified to say he doesn't understand what the man is saying! I like him very much and he has been very good to me, he even covers me up with a blanket when he finds me asleep on deck in the evening. I bought a few things from Mortons from him too, some lovely little English peas, Macfarlane Langs biscuits etc. I think there was only a young half-caste steward when Mary and Arthur travelled on this ship to Suva and I should think it is much nicer now. We are fed jolly well, we seem to do very little else! Going round the north we had Mr. Spivey of whom you have heard before no doubt, and there is also a new missionary, Mr. Sadd, he came out from England with the Eastmans last Autumn. I don't know how to describe him, he is considered by most people as an absolute joke, he is very young I should say although he seems to be going bald, he is very enthusiastic and a bit noisy. His stock phrase is "I think that's simply marvellous". I was dozing on deck last evening and I woke up several ^{times} and every time that is what I

heard. He must annoy old Eastman intensely but he is a good fellow in spite of his extraordinary manner.

The Captain has insisted on taking me free of charge round the Northern Gilberts, from Tarawa south I am a Govt. passenger but not on the northern trip. It is jolly good of him especially as we are unable to reciprocate, the "Nimanoa" can't even take Government officials wives free unless the official is being transferred. Mr. Grimble once allowed Miss Pateman, of Rongorongo, to pay only 6/- per day from the Ellice Islands to Beru, the proper rate is 15/-, and he got into a row for it and I believe had to pay the difference himself. I do think they might have special rates for missionaries and the wives of Government officials.

With much love to you all from us both,

Your loving,

Honor.

We seem to be anchored in a little bay here, outside the reef, and the waves rolling in on either side and fishing canoes sailing along a little further out make a very pretty picture.

No. 5 of 1934

28 JULY 1934

a.s. "John Williams V",

off Tabiteuea Island,

27th May, 1934.

Dearest Lady Maude,

I have written an account of our trip round the Northern Islands as a family letter & this is just to thank you for your last letters which reached us at the beginning of the month. We hope to get a good mail again in a couple of weeks or so as we hear that the two regular ships are on their way to Ocean Is. now & "Himawoa" is due to go over in a week or so. We are sending this mail by the "John Williams", it should be a quick one as it may catch the Aorange & be home about the middle of July, via Vancouver.

I enclose two letters, one to Rhino-Sole Ltd. & the other to Span Beaces Co., would you please put in the necessary P.O.'s for me, 2/- and 5/-? I'll send you the money

when we send another cheque.

We were sorry to hear that Sir Walter had had such a nasty go of 'flu & also to hear of To's accident, I do hope it was not as bad as you feared, however did the poor child manage to hurt herself in such an unusual place?

Many thanks for the loose leaf book, which I have taken possession of, it is just what I want for writing out recipes in Gilbertese.

I'm looking forward to the new paper, "Stitchwork" and hope it comes next mail. I am also hoping shoes come from Barratts, I'm getting very badly off again, they all go at the same time. I sent for new ones for us both long ago but only Harry's came as they couldn't get what I wanted; it is over 4 months now since I sent a second order so they must come soon.

I'd be very grateful if you would send me some pieces of corded ribbon, 1 inch wide & a yard long, different shades of brown. I use it for hat bands and hair bands, I see

that hair bands are, or were, quite the thing & certainly they are most comfortable here where one hardly ever wears a hat ~~hat~~ and a ribbon keeps ones hair tidy. My hair is still bobbed more or less but it is a long bob & turns up into a little roll all round & looks as though it was long, it is very comfy & easy to manage.

We should be in Beem by mid-day tomorrow & I am beginning to feel quite excited, if only there has been some rain! Harry is just beginning to realize that he will soon be an Administrative Officer no more for five years or so & I think he is rather wondering how he is going to like it. Of course he will love the lands work but as he will have to work in other people's districts always he is sure to be fairly cordially hated unless he is very tactful indeed! The natives are overjoyed to hear that their lands

disputes are to be settled at last, the poor things had just about given up hope I think, it must be quite 12 years since M^r Grimble stopped land work.

We sailed along the weather side of Nonouti Island yesterday & the trees looked dreadfully dried up, here at Tabiteuea it looks a bit greener & there has actually been a small shower of rain this morning.

With very much love from us both,

Your loving

Honor.

No. 9. of 1934

a.s. "John Williams V",
off Tabiteuea Island.

27th May, 1934.

Dear Uncle Arthur,

I am afraid I have been a long time answering your letter of Dec: 19th which arrived some time ago. Thank you very much for it and for all the news. I do hope Aunt Kathie is very much better & that her eyesight has improved.

We are both very fit, we seem to have become thoroughly acclimatised and have kept very well since we returned from New Zealand.

Do you know if "Kalyana" is of any real value where there is a lack of lime in the diet? Harry & I have been taking it, I was rather run down & it certainly seemed to buck me up & Harry thinks he was helped by it too.

We are on our way to Beem now

after 8 months on Tarawa. We have been
 travelling since May 9th and hope to be in
 Bevu early tomorrow morning. From Tarawa
 we sailed, in an open boat, to the nearby
 island of Abaiang (Ā-byē-ang) taking with
 us a rather unpleasant murderer whom
 Harry was to try. We left Tarawa jetty
 at 3 a.m., by 5.30 a.m. we had crossed the
 lagoon & by 9 a.m. we were in Abaiang lagoon,
 there is only 7 miles of open sea between the
 two lagoons. It was my first experience
 in an open boat & I quite enjoyed it though
 we were very tired when we reached the
 Government Station at 11.30 a.m. We spent five
 days at Abaiang & then joined the Mission
 ship, which ~~we~~ we are still with, and visited
 the Northern Gilbert Islands. These are
 Marakei, Butaritari (which R.L.S. writes about
 in "Stories of the South Seas") & little Makin. They
 are all much more fertile than the Central
 & Southern islands which are suffering

badly from drought. We returned to Tarawa for a few hours, picked up all our gear & the boys' wives & proceeded south. This ship is larger than our Government vessel & keeps more comfortable. I'm beginning to think that I'm not such a bad sailor after all as I've been all right the whole time except for one day when we rolled a good deal & I didn't want any meals!

Harry becomes the Lands Commissioner for the Gilbert Islands very soon, probably in July, which means about 5-years work before he returns to Administration again. We shall spend from one to three months on nearly every island, we shall be more like wandering Jews than ever, but I think it will be a nice life & as the clearing up of land disputes means a lot to the natives we shall feel we are doing something worth while.

With love from us both.

Yours affectionately,
Honor,

17 SEP. 1934

No. 10. of 1934

Tabiteuea Island,

Gilbert Islands,

11th June, 1934.

Dear Family,

We have at last managed to get to Tabiteuea, we have been here a week now and hope to be left here for a month. We called at Nonouti and Tabiteuea after leaving Tarawa and, incidentally, Harry and Mr. Sadd after spending the day ashore at Nonouti arrived on board at 1.55a.m. just 5 minutes before the ship sailed! They had had to wait for hours for the tide to rise so that they could get a canoe over the reef, it must be a particularly bad landing place because the tide was quite high before they arrived on board and I was getting rather alarmed, I thought they must have crashed into a tree in the dark and probably broken a limb. We eventually arrived at Boru on Monday, the 28th but could not get ashore until the afternoon because it was low tide.

My plants and ferns were looking very much better than I had expected to find them, only a few having died. The island is very dry but might be much

worse. We stayed at Beru until the following Friday, four days, and then the Nimanoa arrived and brought us here and took Dr. Steenson to Tamana and Arorae to finish vaccinating. Mr. Barley sent a letter to Harry by the Nimanoa saying that he did not know when we should be picked up again but as Dr. Steenson has to be in Tarawa early in July to take over from Dr. Young, who is leaving the Colony, Nimanoa will presumably be back in the south before very long. We had a wonderfully calm trip from Beru and I quite enjoyed it and missed no meals! We had one nasty shock when we landed here, our cook-box, which contains all our cooking utensils, some china and bottles of suace etc. could not be found. We sent out to the ship for it but it could not be found there either. We are forced to the conclusion that the prisoners who were instructed to take the box out to the boat merely put it on the verandah and there it stayed. I saw the thing leave the kitchen myself and as everything had been taken from the verandah to the boat I never dreamt that the silly idiots would decide to dump it in the house. However, here we are with a wee picnic kettle, a tea kettle some bandalasta ware consisting of 2 cups and saucers,

4 tea plates, 4 larger plates, wee milk jug, sugar basin and butter dish, 2 egg cups, salt and pepper shakers and a mug, also one tumbler, knives, forks and spoons, a bottle opener and a tin opener; fortunately these things were in the picnic basket which arrived safely. As you can see we haven't a single saucepan or frying pan. So far we have managed very well with a native oven, the bread, cooked in a biscuit tin, is really just as good as when it is baked in a proper stove. We have had some very good "buatoro", a native thing made from babai and also baked. I forgot to mention that we haven't a stove either, we meant to bring a small oil stove but it was forgotten! I am only surprised that we managed to collect as much as we did, it was a hectic rush. I also forgot to mention that we came ashore in an enormous canoe or rather "baurua". I think it is the largest in the Gilberts, it has three sails and a tremendous outrigger. There were 50 people on it when we came ashore as well as our luggage and it wasn't a quarter full. We are going to try to get a really good photo of it but as our films are rather old I don't know whether we shall be very successful. All this last week there

has been a constant stream of natives to the house. They are badly in need of money and bring every conceivable thing to try and sell it to us. It was becoming rather trying and tiring too, but there are not so many to-day thank goodness. We arrived on the day before the celebration of the King's birthday so Harry had to get a speech ready and then the Father from North Tabiteuea wrote asking if he might hold his own ceremony in his station for his own people. That necessitated a tactful reply which took some time to concoct! The following day we had the saluting of the flag and God Save the King at 9a.m., everyone dressed up in their best and looking very conscious of it, especially the men. All that morning there were deputations of ^{various} ~~very~~ kinds and after lunch we decided we ought to try and have some kind of sports for the children. My goodness, we did not know what we were letting ourselves in for, I've never in all my life seen such hooligans, noisy, undisciplined young demons! Every item on the programme took about four times as long as it should have done as there was such a din and you simply could not keep them quiet and then as soon as that particular item was finished everyone poured

on to the course and it took about ten minutes to make another clear space. However, we had several flat races, to try and tire them a bit, then musical bumps for the little girls with Kaburara, the new Interpreter, blowing a mouth organ for music, half the time you couldn't hear the mouth organ because the spectators, half of them adults by this time, would insist on roaring with laughter whenever a small girl went out or sat down before the music stopped. We had eating very large ration biscuits covered in treacle suspended from a pole on a piece of string and I couldn't have believed a small boy could have eaten them at such a rate, you would have thought they had been starved for a week. Then the big boys wanted to have a go, boys of about 18 years I should think or perhaps not quite as much, huge creatures anyhow and they finished their biscuits in the twinkling of an eye. We had brought four empty oil drums, so we had races standing on a drum and rolling it backwards with their feet, that caused much amusement too. Then potato races for the larger girls, and after that we were going to have something else and I went to collect the necessary articles and returned to

find Teikarawa very angry and the Magistrate beating two boys. Teikarawa and others said the boys had thrown a basket which had splashed Harry from head to foot with wet sand, anyhow the meeting broke up then and we returned home very weary and I upset that it should have ended on such a doleful note.

23rd June, 1934.

At the moment we are camping at the south end of Tabiteuea for a few days. There is a second Govt. Station here, a lovely position and a nice house but, of course, no furniture beyond a table and two locally made chairs and a string bed, the latter article is a bit small so we have to sleep one at each end, it is quite 7 feet long so it is fairly comfortable! After the King's birthday celebrations we had a couple of weeks of hard work, Harry interviewing people and getting office work done, there was a good deal to do after our weeks of travelling round. I was working at the next installment of string figures and helping with the typewriting for Harry. We spent one evening in the maneaba at Utiroa village, that is very close to the Govt. Station, and collected about four new figures.

Last night we went to the maneaba of the nearest village but only got one new string figure and a variation of one I knew already, I really think we have collected just about all the figures now. Harry bought a good number of native articles, chiefly pearl shell fish hooks, and he is feeling very pleased with himself; we have a pretty good collection of native stuff now, but goodness only knows how we are going to get it home.

On Monday the 18th we cycled to the north end of the island. We left the house at 10.30a.m. and after twenty minutes cycling arrived at the village of Tanaeang (Tan-eye-ang) where we had to measure out a piece of land to check a land lease. From there we cycled on to the Catholic Father's station which we reached about 12o'clock; on the way there we had to shelter in a maneaba, it was a showery day, Tabiteuea means "the place of the King", and this particular maneaba is the place where the king of Tabiteuea used to live, they have his skull and two other bones I think, in a basket suspended from the roof. One of the doctors had a look at the bones and said he must have been a very big man. Anyhow, in this maneaba they have proper floor mats to spread when visitors arrive,

a custom which is not allowed in any other maneaba in the Gilbert islands, the usual mats being made from coconut leaves and very rough things. Also this maneaba has a low fence all round it and a short distance away in the bush is a large pool which was the King's bathing pool. There is a huge wooden bowl in a canoe shed there which they say belonged to the king, it is like a young canoe and would be a fine museum piece but I don't quite know how one could get it transported. There is also a large, flat white stone which they all swear floated to the island, it is certainly not local stone but I must say I'm a bit sceptical as to its floating propensities.

Well, having got to the Father's station we had lunch with him and measured two more pieces of land for leases, I went to see the two Sisters for a few minutes but conversation was rather difficult as they were both French and could speak no English and hardly any Gilbertese although they said they had been in the Gilbert Islands for six years, and I can't remember a word of what little French I once knew. We left the Catholic station about 3p.m. and cycled right to the

north of the island. We visited two more villages and walked from the last village to the point of the island. The Kaubure (the equivalent of a Jersey Constable) accompanied us and insisted upon showing us how to get fish out of a fish pond. The natives have a lot of small ponds of brackish water in which they put small fish of a special kind and when they have grown large and fat they catch them. Our friend on this occasion produced a sort of shrimping net and proceeded to wade into this very red and muddy pool, accompanied of course by Koura and Caesar, and after he had walked round in circles and figures of eight for some moments the fish began to leap out of the water and the old chappie tried to catch them in his net. Eventually he did catch one which he presented to us, a beauty, but the brutes are a mass of bones and very rich, however we thanked him very much and started home. I think it was about 5p.m. when we left him and we got home just as the lally struck 6p.m.

The next day we spent finishing off the office work and getting ready for our trip down here. On Wednesday, 29th, we left the Government station by canoe

at 12 noon, with the tide going out fast and not much wind but what little there was, in the right direction. We were to sleep at a little village about half-way down Tabiteuea the first night and we sailed along very gently all that afternoon. At about 3 o'clock we arrived at a large stretch of shallows and we were still wandering over them at 6p.m.! However we had some fun on the way as we passed over a lot of rocks in which clams were embedded and as there was a crowbar on board the boys spent some time in gouging them out and eating them. Some people say they are more tasty than oysters, I tried one little nibble and it was rather nice and very crisp but I do hate the idea of raw and almost alive fish. Harry nibbled a bit too, I don't know what conclusion he came to but judging by his face I shouldn't think he relished it. There was some excitement too over a small shark which came to investigate our canoe. The water wasn't more than 2 feet deep and the shark about 3 feet long I should think. One of the prisoners got the crowbar and tried to brain it but missed so he chucked away the crowbar and literally threw himself on to the wretched shark and actually caught it by the tail. It

was a wonderful bit of work; and having got the thing by its tail the man had a job stopping it from twisting itself up and biting his arm, he shot it into the bottom of the canoe and I believe it was later cooked for supper. We eventually arrived at the village of Bangai at 9p.m. This village is built on the end of a wee islet and the house they gave us was the first house in the village and was really on the beach in a very nice position. The next morning there was a meeting of the people in the maneaba, we strolled through the village and then left, about 9a.m. for the next small village, Aiwa (Eye-wa) this we reached at 11a.m. The people were gathered in the maneaba and after talking to them and walking through the village we left for Buariki, that is where we are now. We had a topping wind until we were nearly here and then it fell and we just meandered along and tacked at intervals. There were three canoes going down and every now and then when the wind dropped we found ourselves in line, it was most ridiculous and caused much amusement and not a little chaffing as we had a tremendous sail and always got away before the others as they could get no wind until we had removed ourselves. We arrived here at 6p.m. and went to

bed early as we were very sleepy after so much sailing. The next morning we cycled to the south tip of the island, to the village of Taku, it was a very pretty ride and there seems to have been quite a lot of rain here as everything looks nice and green. There was a row when we got there as nobody had told the people that we were coming and there was to have been a big meeting as the people want to move their village to another place. I don't know whose fault it was, just a general muddle I think, anyhow Harry was very angry but as the people were miles away they could not be rounded up so we had to return without doing anything. The rest of that day Harry spent in doing odd things such as land rents and paying out money.

24th. Yesterday we walked up the island to visit two villages, it was no use trying to cycle as there were four passages to cross. It took us about an hour and a half to walk up, then we went to see the site on which some of the people of the last village want to live and from there walked up to the point of the islet where there was a canoe waiting for us. We saw the site of an old war between the pagans of the south and the protestants, led by Hawaiian missionaries, from the north. I can't help

thinking that a good number of the so-called protestants were only out for what land they could get. Anyhow the Christians more or less massacred the southerners, they got them hedged in, slaughtered them, about 350 of them and not being content with that piled them up, some still alive and burnt the lot. Women and children were killed too and altogether they killed between 1,500 and 2,000 that day, hardly anyone was left in the south. This was in 1875 and a warship came in 1892 with the flag and removed the Hawaiians but as far as we can gather from books these men were never punished although tried. (We are not quite sure whether all that time elapsed between the massacre and the removal of the missionaries, it is difficult to find out) I'm glad to say that the land of those killed was given to the survivors and I believe the northerners did not gain much if any land. From here we sailed back to Buariki, the wind was strong and we had Kaburara running up and down the outrigger to keep it from rising to high. In the evening we went to see the dancing in the maneaba but it wasn't at all good; we thought that here in south Tabiteuea where the people are considered wild they would

produce something really good but although they wear grass skirts all day, beautifully made ones too, they hadn't any for the dance. Extraordinary people, they wear nothing but a grass skirt all day but when they go to perform a native dance they put on European dresses, which, of course, quite spoils the dance. Imagine wagging your hips with a frock on, it's positively ugly, but see a native with a thick grass skirt doing it and it is fascinating, the skirt sways so gracefully.

27th We rested on Sunday only going for a short walk through the bush in the afternoon as we were to start early the next morning to see if we could walk back to the Government Station at Utiroa. The Catholic Father in the south told us that he had walked part of the way and so had a former Administrative Officer but no one had ever walked all the way and he was quite sure we could not do it. We told him that we had walked and cycled from Betio to Abaokoro at Tarawa in one day and he said we lied! We assured him that we were telling the truth but he quite obviously did not believe us. We were up on Monday morning soon after 4a.m. and by 5.30a.m. the tide was low enough for us to start. Teikarawa and Kaburara were

to come all the way with us but we had relays of volunteers to carry a change of shoes for us and some food and the camera and also to help me across any deep passages. We wore our rope soled shoes and decided to sleep at Bangai as we had on the way down. The first part of the journey was fairly easy, we had done it on the previous Saturday, there were only four passages and quite long stretches of good shady road. It was about 7 a.m. when we passed the second village, dropped the volunteers who had come with us from Buariki and picked up fresh ones and started on the long stretch to Aiwa which is very close to Bangai. There was no more road now and after going for a short time along a bush track we struck out across the sands. The going was fairly good though soft in places and there was a good deal of paddling to do crossing the passages. By 9.30 a.m. we had covered more than half the distance and as the tide would not turn until 10.30 we found a shady place, the boys collected some drinking nuts and we all had a hunk of "Buatoro" to eat and rested for a quarter of an hour. We set off again, still across the sands and passages and eventually reached Aiwa and a good piece of road about 12 o'clock. I changed

my shoes as one of my toes was hurting and we were told that there were only four more passages and those short ones. By this time the tide had been coming in for some time and the passages, not shallow at any time were very deep indeed but not very wide. However the bottom was very rocky and hard even for the natives to cross, Harry waded across several then was carried over two very deep and bad ones and then, just as we thought we were getting along fine it began to pour with rain and we discovered that the boys had lost one of my rope-soled shoes. We knew it couldn't be very far behind as I only took them off at Aiwa so some of the boys went back to look for it and Harry and I and two volunteers went on. The passages were now up to Harry's chest and the rest of him was wet by the rain, I had an umbrella which I had brought for protection from the sun so I was only wet from the waist as I was carried over the deep water. We eventually wandered into Bangai looking more like a couple of vagabonds than a Commissioner and his wife, at 1 p.m. and had to stay in our wet clothes until the canoe arrived at 3 o'clock. We did not feel unduly tired and nor did the boys who turned up some time later without the missing shoe. The people of Bangai village

are awfully nice, we sat and talked and did string figures until the canoe came then we had some nice hot tea and a meal and dry clothes. After that we played cards, I taught them Beg of my Neighbour and Grab Snap, the latter was very popular and caused much amusement. The poor things hadn't a single pack of cards in the village so I think they will remember our visit! The next morning, that is yesterday, we were up at 5a.m. and started about 6.30a.m., we had a shorter distance to go than the day before and our bicycles were waiting for us on the mainland. I'll try to make a sketch map of the island, it is divided into three distinct districts, North Tabiteuea, Naanikai where there are only two passages, Abamokoro or islands, the centre of Tabiteuea where there is hardly anything but passages and South Tabiteuea called Tabon te Aba, the end of the land. From Buariki to Bangai we crossed 36 passages and walked for over 7 hours, from Bangai to Kabuna we crossed 16 passages and walked for 4½ hours and from Kabuna we crossed 2 passages and cycled for nearly 2 hours. The going from Bangai to Kabuna was not at all good, we seemed to be wading nearly all the time, and I was handicapped by having no proper shoes, I had to wear leather sandals and the heels began to

come off before we had gone half-way. The boys' feet were sore and the poor dogs had sore feet too and looked dejected every time we came to a stony patch. However, we reached Kabuna at 11 o'clock and found our bicycles waiting for us but none for the two boys. We told them to do their best to hire some or to come by canoe when the tide came in but they said they would walk. We still had two passages to cross, one of them a nasty rocky one, but we had sent word to the nearest villages to send a couple of volunteers to carry our bicycles across for us. When we reached the first passage there was no sign of any volunteer, nor anyone else, so I shouldered the two bags we had with us and Harry prepared to carry the two bicycles but at the last minute a native turned up and took my bike ~~for me~~ but Harry still had to carry his own. At the second passage again there was no one and nobody turned up so Harry, a bit weary by this time carried or rather dragged the bicycles across and I took the bags. We arrived home about 1 o'clock, drank ginger beer and beer, eat a tin of fruit and a tin of condensed milk between us, after opening the store cupboard by unscrewing the lock, and tumbled into our hammocks to sleep until the canoe arrived and we could bath and eat properly.

We went to bed at 6 o'clock, to read, as we said to ourselves, but actually we went to sleep and slept for 12 hours!

We were a bit stiff the next day and Harry has a bad place on his foot where his shoe rubbed but otherwise we are none the worse for our adventure. I was really quite scared before we started because everyone said we couldn't do it, I only hope Father Auclair will believe us this time!

It was quite funny when we arrived in Bangai, when we got here and the day afterwards, everyone peered at us as if they thought we must surely collapse before long and everyone was saying how "korokoro" strong, we were and one of the women prisoners told me I was nearly "batabata", black like a nigger! We have now been from north to south of Tabiteuea, cycling where it was possible and walking the rest. There are tremendous stretches where no one lives down in the south which seems such a pity, and here the villages are miles long, in fact, it is practically one continuous village from here to the Catholic Father's station which is nearly an hour's cycle ride away.

I forgot to mention that we sent our bicycles back for the boys as soon as we arrived home. They didn't seem very tired but Kaburara had a bad leg, I mildly suggested that a bandage he had on it might be too tight, he looked

a bit surprised but after investigating he found that that was all that was the matter.

Beru.

3/7/34 "Nimanoa" turned up at noon on the 29th and we packed up and left the shore by 4.30p.m. We had an awful job getting the stuff out to the ship as there is only a small whaleboat at Tapiteuca, there were 12 native passengers and all of them seemed to have mountains of gear. Eventually, by hiring 7 canoes and using the large Govt. canoe we got out to the ship just before 6p.m. The Captain was anxious to get away so we were glad we had hurried. We found Mr. Cartwright on board, he has now taken over from Harry as from the 1st July, and Harry is Lands Commissioner. At present he cannot do much in the way of Lands work as he has no staff so I hope he will have a bit of a rest and perhaps get on with his law. He is supposed to supervise and help Mr. Cartwright who does not know anything yet as the Major only let him count paper clips and make out inventory boards! Mr. Barley hopes to come over in about 2 months time and settle things with Harry and in the meantime Harry will make out a programme and write up the Ocean Island lands in the Register, he has never had time to do it. For the present

our letters had better be addressed to Beru as we shall be in the Southern Gilberts until we go on leave. It hasn't been decided yet on which island work will be started, Harry isn't keen on beginning on Beru and I'm not anxious to go to Arorae and Tamana as it would mean two moves during the bad weather which might be very unpleasant to say the least of it, especially in "Nimanoa". Dr. Steenson came back this morning and is very busy packing up to go to Tarawa, after he has gone Mr. Cartwright is going into his house but at present everyone feeds here and we are quite a jolly party. It is quite nice to be back in comparative civilization and to have proper meals although we thoroughly enjoyed our stay at Tabiteuea. This afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Eastman and Mr. Sadd came over to tea, I only expected Mr. Eastman and got rather a shock when I saw the others but we managed to rake up enough cups and enough to eat and it was very nice to see Mrs. Eastman again, I like her very much indeed but the poor dear always looks so worn and tired.

With much love to you all from us both,

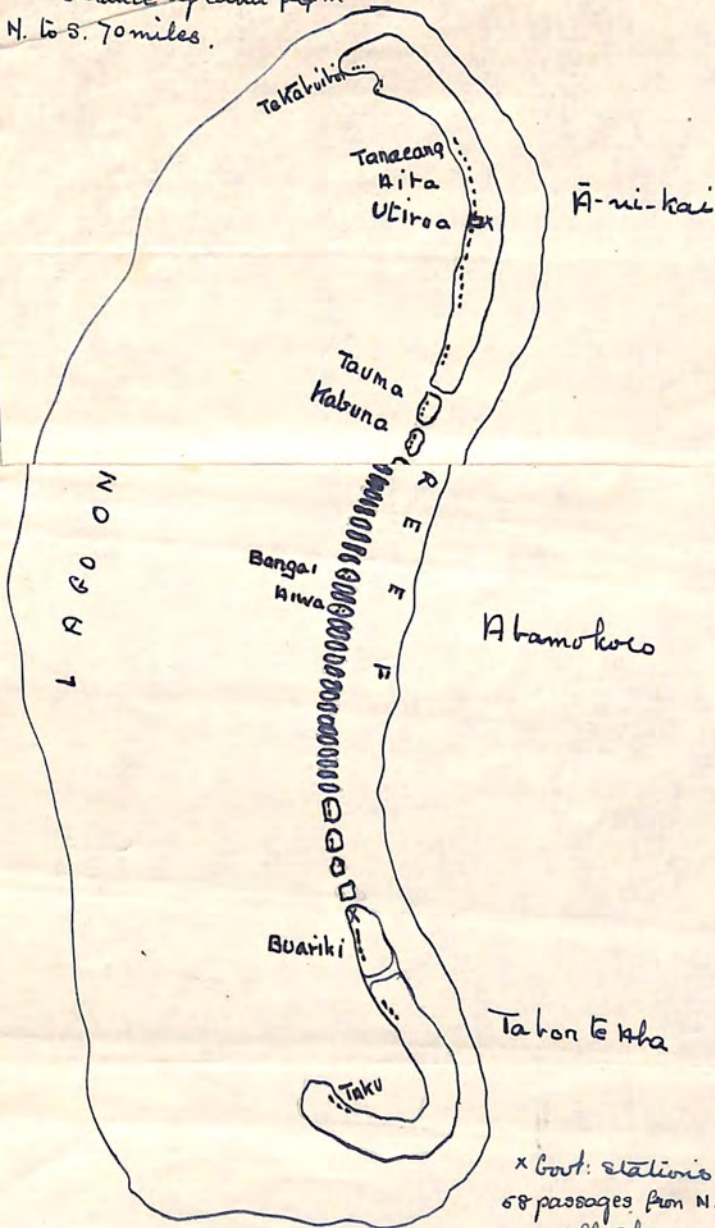
Your loving,

Honor.

Very Rough Sketch Map of Taiteteua.

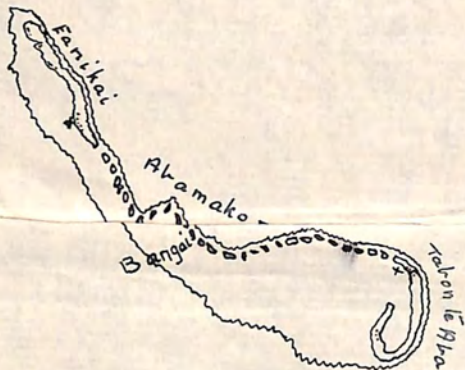
Distance by land from

N. to S. 70 miles.



Sketch map of Tahitēua.

(Taken from chart).



Distance by hand from N. to S. 70 miles.
58 passages from N. to S. not all shown.
x Government stations.

No. 11. of 1934.

Beau.

Central Pacific.

5th July, 1934.

Dearest Lady Maude,

You will see by my long letter that "Himawoa" is only waiting just long enough for the doctor to pack up & in the meantime to have two extra men to feed & the house to put straight. "Himawoa" brought us a splendid mail & we found the "Rakum" here on our arrival, just returned from Fiji, so we had more mail. There were 8 letters from you & Sir Walter & one from Muriel, please tell the latter I will write to her next mail as there is a bit of a rush on here at present. We haven't had time to open books yet, except the Maori one with which Harry is delighted & says he'd been wanting it. I've just glanced through one Slitcheer & think it a ripping magazine. I see a rather nice

pattern for woollen undies which I think I'll make, ready for leave. I shall have to answer your letters properly next time & please excuse this awful scrawl. If you haven't sent the Teni-Koit ring don't send one, the new one hasn't been used yet & so will last some time. Harry says please will you order some khaki shirts for him from The Army & Navy, 15½" collar & not the ones with umpteen pockets, the ordinary plain ones. His old ones had an ink number on the label 511 which may help. Also please could you send 6 really hard tooth brushes & a palate brush for Harry.

We hope you are having a lovely summer & all flourishing.

Our love to Muriel & the family & much love to yourselves.

Your loving,
Honor.

No. 12. of 1934.

Island of Beru,
Gilbert Islands,
Central Pacific.
26th July, 1934.

Dearest Father and Mother,

Well here we are at Beru again after some months of rapid changes. However, our lives seem to be one long "general post" and we're quite used to it by now.

When I last wrote I believe we were at Tarawa and in charge of the Central and Southern Districts, with MacDonalld under me and nominally in charge of the North. Well, soon after that MacDonalld was recalled to Ocean Island to assist Mr. Barley with the correspondence and I was once more left in charge of the whole outfit. Needless to say I was frantically busy - in fact I have been ever since Barley arrived in January. I simply didn't dare to stop working for a minute at Tarawa - morning, noon and night and as for a half-holiday on Sundays, it was quite unthinkable. Of course I could have let the whole thing slide like Swinbourne, the present man, is doing, but it seemed to me that it was a great chance to make a special effort, since I was in charge of 27,000 out of the 34,000 in the Colony and a new Resident Commissioner had just taken over and was presumably sizing the situation up. Anyway, I wrote over 200 letters to the Resident Commissioner alone in under four months, besides what I had to write to the rest of the Colony. I had to hire extra typists to cope with the drafts. Sorry, I've had to change typewriters as Honor has taken the other one. She's always typing nowadays as she has to get the second instalment of her article, or rather book, on String Figures off and its a brute.

In May Swinbourne came over and took over Tarawa and the Central District and bringing a new Cadet, Cartwright, to be his assistant. I was still left with the Northern

Gilberts and so left to go round them on the "John Williams". We had a very pleasant trip though there was plenty of work and on our return handed over to Major Swinbourne at Tarawa and left for Beru. We were only a few days at Beru and then left for Tabiteuea where we stayed about a month and had a lovely time. Honor has, I imagine, told you everything we did there and all about our famous walk from Bugriki to Utiroa. Anyway we thoroughly enjoyed every minute of our stay on the island and everyone was ripping to us. The Tabiteueans are quite the nicest Gilbertese, we think, and as we love them all it means that they are quite exceptional.

At the end of June the "Nimanoa" suddenly turned up so we packed up and went out on the evening tide, within four hours of first sighting her. We found Cartwright, the new Cadet, on board, so it meant that Barley had kept his promise and I had been transferred from District Administration to commence, or rather revive, the old Native Lands Department. I was very bucked indeed as it means that what I have been fighting for since 1931 has come off and the natives are to have their lands troubles settled at last.

I handed over the District to Cartwright at Beru the next day and ever since then have been feeling very strange, and free from responsibility. Every time I wake up in the morning I have to realise afresh that I hav'nt got the responsibility of the Island and District to trouble me any more. For years everyone with any troubles has been worrying me but now I'm able to send them all round to

Cartwright to fuss about. Actually, Cartwright is to act only under my advice and guidance for two or three months, according to Barley's ruling, but that's very little trouble as he does all the dirty work.

As for my new position - I'm naturally given a free hand what to do, where to go and when. At present I'm not to start serious lands work until the Secretary of State has approved the estimates for a staff, expenses etc., so I've

been spending my time making out a programme for future work, rules of procedure, etc. and learning the local land customs of Beru. Of course the whole business is applied anthropology pure and simple - we have guaranteed not to interfere with their land customs as they existed at the establishment of the British Protectorate in 1892 and so I endeavour to ascertain the true customs on each island and then apply the customs as found to each individual case requiring settlement. The great thing is that since the whole business is, to the European mind, unutterably complicated and involved, being based on a social structure quite different to our own, no-one knows anything about it bar ourselves, so I can, as it were, dictate my own terms and methods of working.

At the moment, however, I'm doing or thinking very little about land for I've applied to be examined in October for my final examination in law - the last of the four examinations which I have to pass. It's really very stiff indeed - ridiculously so, considering none of it is of any real use in the Colony as the law is, of course, English law, and in the Colony English law does not apply except to Europeans. Hence, there is practically no chance of ever being called upon to use any of this store of knowledge. The subjects I'm to be examined in are Contracts, Torts, Criminal Law, Evidence, Civil and Criminal Procedure, the Pacific Order In Council and the various Ordinances and King's Regulations in force in the Colony.

For about three weeks now I've been working from morning till night at the various subjects - there's such a vast amount of information to absorb that I get disheartened at times but it will be such a relief to get the work over once and for all and be able to have a real rest. I had not intended to try for another year but this month of respite has given me a chance to read up the subject.

My present intention is to endeavour, if possible,

to stay here on Beru studying law until my examination is over in October. Then go and finish the lands settlement of Arorae - from thence work gradually up the islands, staying about 3 to 5 months on each or, with luck, a bit less, and finally end up on Beru at the end of next year when we intend to go on long leave. Hence, when I get back from leave, I shall be able to start straight away with either Tabiteuea or one of the Central Gilbert Islands. But who can tell - before then I'll probably be given quite a different position.

Well, it's now the 9th August and I must finish this letter, as the recruiting ship is due tomorrow morning and everything will be a rush. I've just finished the law of Torts, including revision, and find, to my delight, that I can answer all the questions set in the last two years with the greatest of ease - so, with a bit of luck, I'll pass in one subject at any rate. Hope you don't mind me typing my letter - its ever so much quicker and, I guess you'll think, more legible.

We started a market here a few weeks ago and its going along fine - every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon. Fortunately everything has been bought up before closing each time, for the Gilbertese have a curious custom by which, if anyone brings anything to sell to someone else and he does'nt succeed in selling it, he's the subject of intense ridicule when he gets back to his own village. Hence it is difficult to persuade anyone to bring anything to the market, for fear they will not be able to sell it and if they don't succeed in selling it they usually give it to us as a present to avoid the shame - this suits them as, according to custom, we have to give a present in return later on.

I hav'nt been feeling well today and Honor's been lecturing me 'cos she reckons its due to not taking exercise. I used to take an hours exercise every day but I hav'nt had any for a week now as I'm cramming law without stopping -

I'll start again this evening. It will be great when the wretched exam is over and I'll be able to be out in the open air again - also, on the Lands Commission, I'm going to take Saturday afternoons and Sundays off so that the native members of the Commission can have a rest - so I'll have so much time I'll not know what to do with myself! Actually, however, there's oceans of anthropological notes to be written up and two articles already promised to the "Journal of the Polynesian Society" one a historical study of population trends in the Gilbert and Ellice Groups and the other on the "territorial divisions of the Gilbertese exogamous clans". Also the government want me to write a handbook of instructions and hints for the guidance of native government officials and both the missions and the Education Dept. have asked me to write a History of the Gilbertese race, in Gilbertese, for the use of mission schools - so I sha'nt be idle, I expect.

I've just finished an essay on the "Spelling of the Gilbertese Language" for the Education Dept., to form a basis for a conference they want to call in order to attempt to obtain uniformity in our orthography. Before sending it off I showed it to the Protestant Mission, expecting them to blow up on the spot, but it was very favourably received and I hear that the worthy missionaries made private copies of the essay - about 14 pages - for their own use. Uniformity is in sight now - for the missions have adopted the use of "B" instead of "P" and "Ng" instead of "N". I have also recommended the abolition of diacritical marks, the addition of a "v" to the alphabet, the alphabet to be in the same order as in English, *no marking of long vowels and no hyphenation.*

Honor has been very busy the last few days with her Womens Society - filling orders for native arts and crafts from Nauru and Ocean Island. Actually, it must help the women quite a bit for we have sold over £50 since she started. She received a lot of orders through the Administrator of Nauru Island and they all have to go off on the recruiting ship

tomorrow - hence the rush. Did I ever send you the little ticket we devised for sticking on to all goods we send off for the natives? Anyway I enclose one as they proved quite successful - she's sold about 400 articles altogether now, I believe.

I am sending you a map of the Colony which Mr. P. T. English, of the Treasury Dept., sent me. Also, if I can get on I'll send you an admiralty chart of the Gilberts as I don't honestly see how you can understand our letters unless you have one. I remember suggesting that you should get one - they are 4/6 - from the Admiralty agents in London, but I think you said in a subsequent letter that, for some reason, you had'nt got one. They are really very good and you'd understand at once where we are living at any particular time.

I must stop now - in any case there does not appear to be any news at all worth talking about since we've been so out of the world since leaving Tarawa, thank goodness.

With lots of love from your affectionate
son,

See Maude.

No 13. of 1934.

Beu.

Central Pacific.

7th August, 1934.

Dearest Lady Maude,

The Recruiting vessel is due here in a few days time but as they are sure to rush in and out again I'm afraid it will be no use waiting to answer letters. Two ships arrived here yesterday, the "Ralum" from Tarawa Trading & the "John Williams" from Samoa, just dropping cargo for the L.M.S. & then rushing away again. No mail by either ship.

"Nimanua" seems to keep sailing between Ocean Island & Tarawa, odd bits of news filter through, but goodness knows when M^r Barley is coming over. Rumour said soon but now we hear that D^r Steenson has gone to Ocean which looks as though M^r Barley is not visiting the Group just yet.

M^r Macdonald is going all round on the

receipt, it sounds as though they are making a quick trip & not going to Tarawa at all. It will be nice to see Macdonald again.

The last month seems to have gone dreadfully quickly, the time seems to be longer when we are travelling. Here we have been doing office work, Harry is studying law hard & there isn't much time for walks or games. I suppose I hadn't told you that Harry is to sit for his Law Exam. in October, I suppose the papers will be sent up but we might go to Fiji, anyhow I hope he passes, it would be such a relief.

I've had a couple of labourers in for 10 days @ 6d per diem, & have made some improvements in the garden which now looks fairly like a garden & less like a desert. We've had a lovely lot of rain but could do with lots more; we have enough now to wash in for which we are thankful.

M¹⁹ Eastman has a small Electrolux

freezing cabinet now, it is simply ripping. Ever so compact, gorgeously clean + only uses $\frac{1}{2}$ pt. of kerosene a day. It is far, far nicer than our Ice Ball + not cumbersome for travelling. It cost, I think, under £20 complete + Ice Balls plus Ice chest + accessories are about £40 + with the Electrolux there isn't the rather trying business of heating, it just goes on all the time with a wee lamp. I'm saving up for one + hope to sell our old Ice Ball, if it is still functioning, before we come home.

I am delighted with the book of Household hints + have made the peg bag + soiled linen bag described in it - very many thanks.

You ask if we have wells - yes, of a kind. Simply a hole dug in the ground, about 6 ft deep, + the water is rather brackish + not at all nice. That is all the natives have + during all the years the government have

been here they haven't built a single cistern for the natives. During a drought the water becomes very salt but as a native hardly ever drinks plain water but mixes it with molasses I suppose they don't notice it much.

Harry says he can't remember anything about the obstacle golf & suggests that perhaps he was too young to remember!

My brain is absolutely addled as I've been collecting, sorting, allocating, ticketing, pricing & checking Gilbertese hats etc. for Haamu. It has been such a rush & very difficult as I haven't enough things to fill all the orders. The hats are really first class these days, I shall have to bring home a batch. Pockettes too are much improved, when this lot have gone I'll get some made for myself & send ~~some~~ ^{them} to you. Letter writing at the moment is somewhat difficult, we are all in a mosquito room 12' x 14' with two dogs, one half Alsatian & fairly large, and a cat with 3 kittens. Dogs must be kept in because

Caesar runs away to the natives, the cat has to stay too because a beast of another cat eat one of her kittens & this was the only safe place - so I have to keep the dogs away from the cat's corner, fortunately she doesn't mind as long as they don't go too near her. Another complication is that Koura is jealous of Caesar & won't allow him too near me & there is liable to be a scrap if he becomes too friendly!

With much love from
 Your loving
 Honor.

I enclose a couple of snaps Capt. Ree gave me, please keep them for us. He coloured the green one, I did the blue. Let Uncle Arthur see the "babai" pet please, he will see how easy it would be to slash the whole thing to bits on a dark night! The natives at Talawa had a craze for racing their canoes, they seemed to do it all day but we haven't seen it done anywhere else. This snap shows them preparing to launch them.

No. 14. of 1934.

Island of Beu,
Gilbert Islands,
Central Pacific.
16th September, 1934.

Dear Uncle Arthur,

We were delighted to get your letter which arrived by the last mail, a month ago. I loved hearing about the Sawyer children though I am afraid they must have almost forgotten us by now, five years is a long time to a child & they were all children when we left though Mona is more or less "grown-up" now.

I think I last wrote to you just before we went to Tabiteuea to camp for a month. We had great fun going ashore there; they have a whale boat, but a small one, & we wanted to get our things ashore as quickly as possible so that the yacht could get away so they launched an enormous canoe for us. These canoes have a special name, "baurua", there are not many left these days but Tabiteuea, being a large island, has quite a number & the one they launched for us is the largest. It has three masts & sails, has a deck inside it as well as on the top of it & will easily take

100 people. When they came for us there were 44 on board + two sails were used, the canoe was very nearly as long as the yacht + the decks about level, they had quite a job to get it alongside, especially as they came at us head on! Having got us on board we proceeded out to sea on a long task, personally, I don't think it was necessary but as the natives very seldom launch these great canoes I think they meant to have a joy ride + we, of course, were very thrilled. We took a photograph but unfortunately our film packs are too old + it was a failure.

Having got ashore we found that all our kitchen utensils had been left at Beu, we discovered when we returned here that the two persons who I had told to take the box to the boat had dumped it on the side verandah + so no one saw it. However we managed very well with a native oven, dug out of the ground + made a number of native dishes which are very good when made under one's own supervision. We had a really lovely month there + explored the whole island, I wrote an account of a long walk there + I expect the Maunders will send it on to you, if they don't + you would like to see it, ask them for it. We are very proud of that walk which took us

two days & which no other European, or native, has ever done. We returned to Beera on July 1st & have been here ever since. Harry is now "Commissioner for Native Lands" which is promotion though it does not affect his salary. At present he is studying law as he is going to sit for his final examination in a few weeks time. I hope he gets through but as there is no one in the colony who knows the first thing about law, except the other cadet who passed his last year but who has been away on leave ever since, & no one to coach a man in law, I think it will be a good effort if he does scrape through. When that is over he is to commence land work in earnest. Just lately we have had time to go through all our Gilbertese articles & name & describe them & pack them up ready to take home. I think we have a pretty fair collection generally & a large assortment of fish lures of pearl shell, clam shell & two other shells as well as some made from the Ocean Island stalagmite, which we think will be considered a good collection. These fish lures are a most interesting study, there are different names for each slightly different shape, colour & cut & different fish are caught with the different kinds of lure. I forgot to mention that

we have several hundred human teeth made up into necklaces! We have also one very precious skull, not a complete one, just the top cut to form a bowl.

I am still struggling with string figures. They take such a time to write up & draw & I am afraid that concentration & application are not my strong points, however they are getting on slowly.

At any rate I have mastered the art of extracting fairly pure oil from copra & have made some quite presentable soap & am now in a position to teach the natives what their grandfathers knew very well but which they have forgotten. We are now trying to introduce the making of Marshall Island fans & mats which are very superior sort of articles & are very much in demand as the Japanese do not seem keen on their being exported to the Gilberts. The wardress & I are endeavouring to make hibiscus bark fibre as it is almost essential for this work & the Gilbertese have very few trees & do not use it.

With love from us both,

Yours affectionately,

Honor Maude.

P.S. October. The yacht is such a long time coming that this mail will now be our Christmas mail so we send our very best wishes for Christmas & the New Year. Honor.

We are sending you a table
mat or cover, a copy of the
Marshall Mats, either this
mail or next, perhaps next
as it's no use sending it
to you in S. P., with our
very best wishes for Christmas
& the New Year. M.C.M.

No. 15. of 1934.

Ben,

Gilbert Islands,

Central Pacific

12th November, 1934

Dearest Lady Maude,

I am afraid I have been very
remiss as I missed one mail but we
were so busy that I hope you will forgive
me.

I was delighted with the two
jackets you sent, thank you ever so much
for them: they both fit beautifully,
though I had to take in the blue one from
the waist downwards, & I think both of
them very pretty. The bag is absolutely
ideal, especially for trips to & from
ships when one is just as likely as not
to get wet, I shall be using it
continually & thank you very, very much.
As I write Harry is recovering

from a nasty attack of some kind, either a thoroughly deranged stomach or a chill on the liver, I don't know which but the sooner he is thoroughly overhauled by a good doctor the better pleased I shall be. He is continually getting just "out of sorts" & feverish & isn't half as well as I am these days. We have done our two years now & I think I shall press him to ask for leave before the end of next year if possible.

It was most unfortunate his retiring to bed like this as he was to have sat for his Law Examination last week, now he is reading law again & hopes to sit in a day or two. He probably got ill from too much swotting & not enough exercise. I've been indulging in various sceptic ~~sores~~ ^{cuts} on my legs & a nasty disease between the toes, "D'hotie's itch" or something, which ^{means} I couldn't bathe or go for walks with Harry so the idiot didn't

get out enough. My sores have all cleared up thank goodness, they took about month, & would have taken longer only I'd seen the powder. The doctor uses for the foot thing & fortunately the native Dresser here had some.

M^r & M^{rs} Barley were here for a couple of days 4 weeks ago, both very nice indeed & M^r Barley not in a bit of a hurry for Harry to start the lands work. He has been wonderfully good about giving Harry a slack time to cram law, I really think he thought Harry had been overdoing it & needed a bit of a rest. It is not what I expected from him as he does not spare himself & is usually in a great hurry over everything.

Communications seem to get worse & worse & then "Himawoa" last time left Ocean Island two days or so before the Australian ships were due & we got no mail. Now "John Williams" is going

over, taking our mail of course, & I hope will bring plenty back, especially my shoes, I'm nearly destitute!

Before the Barley's arrival I finished the second installment of stamp figures & sent it off. Since then I've had a couple of weeks of intensive sewing, making up about a year's arrears, with two girls to help. Of course, as soon as I started everyone else was bitten with the same idea & although they sewed for me I spent most of my time cutting out frocks for all my friends & their offspring! One woman was making a frock for her small girl but she arrived one morning with a bundle of material for herself. I nearly had a fit because she is nearly 50 inches round the bust! However, the frock fits pretty well I think.

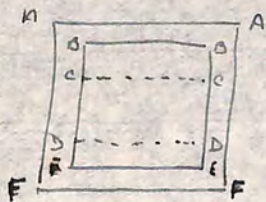
Then we have been experimenting with native dyes, particularly black which

is most elusive & difficult. We seemed to have fired everyone with our enthusiasm, M^{rs} Eastman is asking her mission people about it & actually got a process for red which is a secret, we had it but couldn't tell anyone as it was only given us on condition we told no one. Capt. Holland came through from the Ellice on his way back to Tarawa last week & brought me two ways of making black & one for red that they use in the Ellice.

We have started the making of Marshall fans & mats too & the women's efforts are beyond our wildest dreams. The wardress & I made a fan which was quite successful so I'm considered quite a marvel, though the work was easy! We have to make fibre from the bark of the wild hibiscus for the fans & I've had great fun learning to make it. There are only about 3 trees on the island but M^{rs}

Eastman has one of them so I begged a branch from her & she sent me a beauty. It had to be cooked over a fire, then the bark peeled off & then soaked for about a month in a brackish, & smelly, pool. Ours is just ready now, it is just layers & layers of lovely transparent ribbon, fascinating stuff.

We've been making things for our travels & have finished another hanging cupboard, like Mary sent me which is a perfect boon; a cover for a couple of boxes which is to be my dressing table; a soiled linen bag & a marvellous hanging safe the directions for which Mrs Eastman gave me. It is made of two pieces of mosquito netting. (butta muslin in the book) one smaller than the other like this:—



machine along C.C. & D.D. Hem B, E. & E.F.
 & insert tapes, draw up & tie. Gather K, A.
 overlapping edges & tie with clove hitch
 & hang up. Come out of the "Guides".
 Insert plates on shelves.

Harry really seems to be improving at last, we have now come to the conclusion that it was a nervous breakdown or something of that sort, probably coupled with tummy trouble. He can't read law again yet, he has tried & only retired to bed again. I've never known him so queer, terribly depressed at times & unable to settle down to anything. Usually he's so full of energy & rushing round doing anthropology or canoeing when he wasn't working.

Our drought is still holding although we are well into the wet season now, we had some heavy showers yesterday before dawn which have freshened things a bit & given us a little water but there is no sign of "westerlies" yet. I'm having some gardening done while the soil is fairly damp. We have had holes dug down to water & then filled up with rotten leaves etc: for my precious bougainvillea

& alamandas - The bougainvillea we have moved into the wee garden, just outside the bedroom door where it looks lovely & the alamandas are to climb over the archway & trellis at the bottom of the garden, I hope! Our lime tree has also been given a roomy bed, dug down to water, & coal, lime & chicken manure added. It sends out beautiful new shoots & then they die, I can't think why, but at any rate the tree still lives which is pretty marvellous.

Our three kittens are growing apace & are absolute imps, always up to some mischief but very entertaining, I only wish they were not quite so fond of playing on my ferns. We have called them Tweedle Dee, Tweedle Dum & Ginger. Ginger of course being ginger in colour, ~~of course~~ she is rather sweet & very feminine, she is rather fond of posing.

M^r Barley says we are to go over to Ocean Island when Harry has finished the

lands on one island, to have a change & so that they can discuss any points that may have turned up. We are to stay with them for a couple of weeks so I am very glad I asked Muriel for those frocks as the Barleys seem to expect a very high standard of living. Dress for dinner always, even for a meal which is more or less a picnic, & appear to keep a large stock of wines & spirits. M^{rs} Barley tells me they find it very expensive & I don't wonder but it is entirely their own doing. I'm afraid I've no patience with people who go in for drinks & provide them ad. lib. for other people, it seems to me it must ruin ones inside & is such an awful waste of money. The trouble is that it seems to annoy people if one refuses their horrible stuff, it was what annoyed M^{rs} Rumble so, but I don't see why one should drink what one has a strong objection to taking. I've no objection to other people drinking, in fact I

I provide the usual beer, whiskey, gin & liquors when people come to us but I wish they'd leave me alone with my cold water! I can manage beer now & quite like it but all the rest I can't abide. I shall probably take to them in my old age.

Our last letter from you was July 10th. We were very thrilled to hear of your proposed trip to South Africa & hope you are well on the way by now. I wonder if you will fall in love with the country, so many people do, & decide to stay there! We received the Guernsey papers describing your two fêtes, the garden sounds perfectly lovely & must be huge, I don't wonder Sir Walter is always mowing lawns.

Germany seems to have taken Hitler's actions very calmly as far as we can see by the papers, they are astonishing people. We have evidently let our Times subscription run out as we got no papers last mail

but we were able to borrow some & Harry has now sent 2 years & I think to make sure.

It is bad luck Maudie's back giving out again, it must be a rotten thing to have.

Ann seems to be somewhat aggressive, going to "suck" her mother, she must be a pickle but I feel rather sympathetic, it must be awful to have a nurse who won't "let" you be naughty!

Our latest scheme is to write a short History Book, for use in the village schools. We have nearly all the books relating to the Gilberts & Harry has been asked by both missions & by Capt. Holland if he would tackle it. He, Harry, has made a synopsis & we hope to start work on it when he has done his law papers.

The synopsis is, roughly, as follows:—

Chapter I. Introduction.

The meaning of "race" etc.

Chapter II. The Original Home of the Gilbertese.

The Polynesian migrations. A description of Gilolo
where Gilbertese myth says they came from.

- Chapter III The Migrations to the Gilbert Islands.
- Chapter IV Samoa - The Building of the Tree of Samoa.
The Gilbertese went from the Gilberts
to Samoa & returned many years later.
- Chapter V Samoa - The Breaking of the Tree.
The return to the Gilberts.
- Chapter VI In the Gilberts.
- Chapter VII Tanetua the Great & the "Koura" folk.
- Chapter VIII Kaitu & Uakeia.
Two ancestors.
- Chapter IX The European Discovery of the Gilberts.
- Chapter X The Gilbertese on the first coming of the
Europeans - Their Material Culture.
- Chapter XI Ditto - Their Customs.
- Chapter XII Ditto - The Maneaba.
- Chapter XIII The Whalers.
- Chapter XIV The "Blackbidders."
- Chapter XV The Advent of Christianity - the Protestants.
- Chapter XVI Ditto The Roman Catholics.

Chapter <u>XVII</u>	<u>Trade & Commerce.</u>
Chapter <u>XVIII</u>	<u>The Wars before the coming of the flag.</u>
Chapter <u>XIX</u>	<u>The Gilberts as a Protectorate & Colony.</u>
Chapter <u>XX</u>	<u>The Future.</u>

Aims of the Government & developments
hoped for.

Each chapter will be short & I hope we
shan't find we have bitten off more than we
can chew.

"John Williams" should be back here
in a few days & goes almost immediately
to Tarawa & Ocean so I must write a
few letters.

With very much love from us
both.

Yours lovingly,
Honor.

P.S. I'm afraid this will be horribly late for
Christmas, especially after it has been sent
on to you but I don't know Maudie's address.

20.11.34.

Harry is being treated again by Miss Simmons, of Rongorongo, & is improving steadily. The native doctor gave him Easton Syrup in liquid form & it only made him worse.

No. 16. 9/1934.

Tebikeriki,

Beru Island,

Gilbert Islands.

17th December, 1934.

Dear Family,

Harry has been misbehaving ever since I last wrote and is only really convalescent now. We are staying at the Rest House at the north point of the island and it is lovely, the house itself is extremely dilapidated and would fall down I'm sure if we had the least bit of storm, however the weather has been calm so far, Harry is ever so much better and we return to the Government Station in three days time. Harry was first taken ill on the 4th of November, I think, and by the time the John Williams came back about the 23rd he was just as bad or worse than he had been at the beginning. I went out to meet the ship and brought Mr. and Mrs. Eastman back with me as I wanted their opinion as to whether he had better be taken to Tarawa to the doctor. Mr. Eastman diagnosed a general nervous breakdown, due to overwork, a chill on the kidneys and a thoroughly deranged stomach. Well he gave me instructions about diet and sent over medicines and got in touch with the doctor over the air and we decided to keep him here. The night before the J.W. came in Harry had one of those awful shivering fits and gave me an awful fright but under Mr. Eastman's care he has had no more of them; it has taken an awful time to get him into anything like a normal condition, he had so many relapses and was everlastingly developing new symptoms until I was nearly a nervous wreck myself!

Mrs. Eastman has given him a lot of her very precious Sanatogen and it has done wonders for his mental state but he is still far from well and I am inclined to think that he will apply for leave soon. At present he thinks he will start the Lands Commission on Beru, he is not fit enough to go to an absolutely isolated island, and if he doesn't get really fit we shall ask for leave, long leave to go home. Mr. Eastman still thinks he should have a holiday and he usually knows what he is talking about. The Mission people have been most awfully good and kind and patient, especially Mr. and Mrs. Eastman.

Soon after the John Williams had departed and we had decided to keep Harry here, we heard that there was an epidemic of 'flu on Tarawa, everyone seems to have had it and we congratulated ourselves that we were well out of it. A few days after that Dr. Steenson, just up from 'flu himself, calmly announced that the Ralum was coming here direct from Tarawa. Well the whole of Beru were up in arms as soon as they heard it, both whites and natives, and we all sent wires saying we should be glad if they would reconsider their decision for visiting the south and at any rate we didn't want them at Beru. By the message we got in reply it would appear that they were distinctly peeved but at any rate they didn't come here though they have visited all the other southern Gilbert islands which is a great shame and Mr. Cartwright is very wrathful. We are all quite sure that neither Dr. Young nor Dr. Macpherson would have allowed the ship to leave Tarawa as a great fuss is always made about 'flu as the natives get it so badly. The only fly in the ointment is, of course, that we have missed getting our mail as they, very

naturally I suppose, refused Mr. Eastman's request to drop our mails off the island on their way south. However the John Willie will be back again in a few weeks more and at any rate we shall have a 'fluless Christmas. The John Williams went to Ocean Island and when they got there one of the boys had a very bad cold so the doctor ~~there~~ wouldn't let anyone land ~~and~~ no mission work could be done there; they were sent to Tarawa and it transpired that the boy hadn't got 'flu at all. Nimanoa too went to Ocean and one boy developed 'flu on the way over and the doctor wouldn't even let them tie up to the buoy and yet Dr. Steenson sends a trading ship straight from the centre of infection to no less than six islands. They say they have strict instructions for quarantine but how can any trading be done without contact and is any native capable of carrying out quarantine instructions? We all say definitely no.

Mr. Cartwright (the Cadet in charge here) and Mr. Sadd (Rev.) came up to see us yesterday and we ended up with a hilarious evening playing animal snap with all our boys and their wives. The two girls were absolute ninnies, they couldn't be persuaded to make absurd noises and were speedily out of the game; the boys however made the most awful noises, so did we, and Ruka so far forgot himself as to give Mr. Sadd a resounding smack on the leg after a particularly hideous performance. The evening before I taught them donkey and they seem to like it.

Teikarawa's small son is simply loving being up here and is only quiet when he is asleep. He is fatter too and beginning to look like a normal healthy baby instead of a waif. The dogs, three of them, think it is great as there are heaps of birds to chase ~~and~~

thick bush very close where rats and crabs abound.

7th January, 1935.

We returned to the Government Station just in time to get things ready for Christmas and the weather broke the night we got back! We have had a certain amount of rain from the west but it could hardly be called a "westerly" because there was very little wind and only gentle rain. However we have filled all our tanks, the cistern, unfortunately hasn't been mended yet, and the garden is looking quite fresh and pretty. I think I told you that we moved our very precious bougainvillea, now it is flowering beautifully and growing apace; I have at last persuaded a very pretty mauve flower to grow in the garden near the bougainvillea and have also made another bed of it round an oleander tree which I grew from a slip and which is now about 10 feet high. Altogether there is quite a lot of colour in the centre of the house and plants I have been planting outside are also flourishing and I shall soon have quite a park.

Harry, after a good many more ups and downs, seems to be progressing and he did his last Law Paper yesterday, I think with that off his mind he should be quite alright again. The latest development is a not properly working gall bladder but as Mr. Eastman has been suffering from the same thing himself he is treating Harry in the same way as he treated himself. That man really should have been a doctor, he has the professional manner and is the most reassuring person.

We all (Mr Cartwright being the third) spent Christmas Day at Rongorongo and enjoyed it very much. I went over early to go to

the service but the two men went later as they do not want the natives to think there are on one side or the other as far as religion is concerned. We had lunch and then went to watch a football match between Rongorongo boys and the Government. I did not see much of the game because Ruka (our cook boy) fell somehow or other and dislocated his arm so Mr. Sadd and I took him to the Dispensary to fix him up. In the evening the Guides and Scouts gave a sort of concert, it was very good on the whole. When we got to the jetty to come home we found a whole crowd of people wanting to come on our canoe and as there was quite a strong west wind blowing the lagoon was quite choppy, then they put up the sail and proceeded to race across taking no heed of the waves which were breaking against the sides and drenching us as we were pretty heavily laden. We, of course, were all dressed up in our party clothes and after a time protested and made them take the sail down and then went home more comfortably though rather slowly as we struck the shallows and everyone but us had to walk!

On the 27th Harry and I went across to Rongorongo to stay with Mr Sadd as Harry hadn't finished his exam, and as the maneaba here is so close to our house and was full of natives that the noise is terrific, I thought it would be better for him altogether to be elsewhere. On the 28th we came over in the morning for the children's sports, they went very well too but we didn't have time to finish my programme. We started off with jumping the rope, standing in a circle with someone swinging round a rope with a sandbag on the end, and it was very popular, judging by the noise I should think the

spectators enjoyed it as much as the competitors. Then we had flat races which took ages as nearly everyone wanted to run. After that three legged which always causes great amusement, followed by musical bumps for the small girls. A whole heap of them fell in, about 50 I should think and they are becoming so horribly good at it that it is an awful job to say who sat down last. Teikarawa supplied the music this year with his concertina and it was the most successful thing we have tried, it makes plenty of noise so it isn't drowned by the din made by the spectators, the only jar was that Ceasar would persist in howling dismally until he was removed from the scene. I had the usual potato race for the big girls and, of course, eating treacly buns off a string with your hands tied behind your back, *for Boys.* However this year we finished up with a really good obstacle race, Mr. Cartwright helped tremendously, we made them start off with about 50 yds. flat race, round a small house, through a ladder standing on its side, over about 6 oil drums jammed together, across a narrow plank on top of two oil drums. through 6 hoops held fairly close together and then under a tarpaulin pegged to the very dusty ground and so to the winning post.

Mr. Cartwright had a really brilliant idea, he designed a maze and had it made near the playground, Teikarawa was one of the first to be sent in and it took him twenty minutes to find the centre. Mr and Mrs Eastman and Mr Sadd came over to lunch that day so they were sent in too but got home very quickly. The walls were made of coconut leaves tied on to sticks and they made jolly good ~~walls~~ *partitions.*

After lunch that day there was a series of Tug o War

between Rongorongo, the Government and some of the villages and afterwards there were some native games.

The next few days we spent very quietly at Rongorongo, I had made the Christmas cake which turned out rather successfully so I was asked to give a demonstration of icing to Mrs Eastman and Mr. Sadd's boys! Oh! I quite forgot to tell you we went to the Rongorongo children's Christmas Tree, it was a fine show. The tree was in the open and all the children gathered round it sitting on mats, Father Christmas seemed to have lost his way he was such a long time coming but eventually there was a commotion and we heard a conch shell being blown and then he came into view riding on a much decorated trolley car pulled by two boys and with two more boys standing on the back blowing their conches. He gave quite a long speech about his infirmities having delayed him but that the new car having arrived at the last moment he was enabled to visit us etc. etc. Then all the presents were distributed and when all were finished someone suggested dancing round the tree which we did with great vigour, even the decrepit Father Christmas (Mr Sadd).

Teikarawa, with a little help from me, taught some of the children gathered here for the Christmas festivities, to sing a few songs which we had put into Gilbertese. They were "John Brown's Baby has a cold upon his chest" with movements, "Here we go round the Mulberry Bush" and "Here we go Lupin Loo". We came over in the afternoon of New Year's Day and they sang their songs in the maneaba, they did pretty well considering that it was the first time anything of the sort had been attempted and they learnt the songs in 3 days.

Harry did two of his Law Papers before Christmas and he has done the remaining two since we returned from Rongorongo. He seemed to think they were quite nice papers on the whole, the last one, Criminal Law was the worst; most of the questions were on Evidence in spite of the fact that there was a whole paper on that particular branch of law. I think he should have passed alright. We expect the Lands Commission staff to arrive on the John Williams in a day or so. They have all had 'flu and there was some doubt as to whether one of them would be well enough to travel, we hope he was. From all accounts the 'flu was pretty bad at Tarawa, there were 27 deaths and we are still wondering what on earth Dr. Steenson was thinking about to allow the Ralum to visit the south.

We are almost certain to stay at Beru for the next few weeks or possibly months, then if Harry has quite recovered we shall try to do Tamana and Arorae before going home. I do really think we might get away at the end of the year, wonderful thought!

With much love to you all from us both

Your loving,

Honor.