

1932/1

Waiheke Island
Auckland N.Z.

January 9th 1932.

Dear Lady Maude

I am feeling very guilty about
^{xmas & New Year}
my "correspondence" this year, & I am late every
where with my good wishes, but our thoughts
have been with you just the same. It was
ever so good of you to remember us all
again this xmas. The girls were delighted with
their scarves & the torch has been most useful
in this country village ^{where} street lights
do not exist. At the moment I am lying
out of doors under the periwé trees, while my
house party are wandering over the hills to another
bay where they hope to get some surf bathing.
We seem to be in for a dry hot summer
but here on this island beach, all that is
bearable. Though we may, later on, have to be
careful with water as we must rely on the rain
water in the tanks. I had hoped Mr & Mrs Tuck
would have been in Auckland before our holiday
is ended, & they still may, as we are staying
until Jan 25th. Horor wrote me that they'd be
in Sydney about the middle of December, & I
wrote to them, but as far have had no news of them.
We do want to show them what "backing" is,
although after all, it is only the same sort of
life you all indulged in at St. Genevieve's.

The children have been here now four years in succession & still show no sign of wanting a change to some other place. They are all extremely brown, & Arthur gets quite annoyed with me because I keep suggesting he washes his face!

I am so glad Dorothy wrote to you before we left town - a piece of news I only heard last night - did she tell you she is now at the Gt. St. University studying for a Home Science Degree. She is very happy there, but the work seems unnecessarily difficult & she may have to change over & try for Diploma instead. We have had to let Joan stop all school work, as she was worrying over it far too much. She was working herself into a most neuroasthenic condition & last June ~~she~~ after consulting a doctor, I sent her away on to a farm for three months. All this happened while my husband was in England. He arrived here early in November, to find only Arthur & me in residence. Joan has always preferred a country life & this period on a farm right away in the back blocks has confirmed that liking & the result is that she has decided she wants to be a land girl. Unfortunately, there are no Agricultural Colleges here which will undertake to train girls, & we are having some difficulty ^{also} in finding a farmer who is not prejudiced against girls. We could easily get her on to a farm for household duties, but that is not what she wants. You would probably

know of Sir John Duff Hewell, who was ^{at} one time
Governor in the Puzosule I think. It was with a
branch of his family, a brother, I think, on whose
farm John was staying last year. Mr Hewell
made her very happy, & Joan was allowed
sole charge of all the calves & even sheared
sheep & do some milking. It is quite
possible she may go there again, but it is right
away up in the North, in the Bay of Islands
& I would like her to be nearer Cumberland.
In any case we both feel she should go
to some farm where she would not be treated
as a "pampered guest" as she was there, & where
she would have to realize that dairy farming
is not altogether a picnic. She has grown so
tall & strong, & is really quite able to take Mattie,
& in spite of being away a team, came third in
her Team, but she seems really to have such
a decided aversion to sitting for an exam, & upset
herself so much we finally decided against it.
Arthur still continues to keep top of his form, but
brain work is no effort to him, so there is little to be
said about him. He is at ^{present} a ^{math} lanky, leg & arm stage, & is
dreaming daily of acquiring his first pair of "loopy",
which I suppose will be as soon as we return
to town. Since he looks like a ragamuffin as we
will seize the chance to wear out our very oldest
clothes. His pants are nearly seatless, & as for shoes
they might just as well be barefooted. We usually

Have a funeral of old shoes before we return
to town. There is a strong breeze getting up so
I'll have to continue my correspondence in doors.
Wonder if you get much Indian news now.
The news about Gandhi's imprisonment seems to
show the Government ^{means} business. I suppose however
you get all the latest news from many sources
we have no correspondents in India now
except W. Spiller & his letters are rare events.
My husband is on leave until next March
prior to taking to pension, but I still feel
it isn't quite true, that we have him here
for keeps. Honor gives me scattered news of
Muriel & her babies. It is nice to hear
from her occasionally. I'd love someday
to wander off to these Pacific Islands & see
them. I must really go indoors - this wind
is a pest. Please remember us both to Mr. Walter
& with love & best wishes to yourself &
heaps of thanks for yours.

Ever yours sincerely
Ann E. Tibbels

1932/2

Ocean Island.

Jan: 27th 1932

Dearest Lady Maude,

No letters from you yet as another ship has gone direct to Tarawa, bother them. I'm simply longing to get away from here & get my mail. We got our first letter from Mary from Melbourne to-day & I'm as thrilled as can be. We shall be so pleased to see them, especially as we have not been well & felt rather sorry for ourselves. The doctors never seemed to decide quite what was wrong with Harry, at one time they said appendicitis but then they said no. However Mac thinks it was just a gastric condition due to bad teeth & also tonsils. He is more or less all right but isn't really well. Since New Year I've been more or less laid up with pains in my stomach which apparently is Gastro-enteritis; it was worst last week-end when they thought I had dysentery but I'm thankful to say it wasn't that brutal thing. I'm ever so much better now though not up yet & the letter which has just come from Mary has made me very excited. Harry has almost decided that we must take leave & I think so too, it's no use hanging on feeling like chewed string. So we shall probably go down with Mary & Bethur to Fiji & New Zealand in June. I almost hate Ocean Island, especially in January when all the illnesses seem to occur. We shall only take about 3 months

leave & not spend more than we can help because of getting home later on. We shall be able to get teeth put right etc. - anyhow we shall have done 2 1/2 years by then.

M^r Grumble is all up in the air & in a peculiar state of mind, it is high time he went away. It is going to be a frantic squawk going to Tarawa, H.H. refuses to make more than one trip with "Nimanoa", he says that the men can sleep on deck - just refuses to discuss luggage! Isn't it hopeless? We can't possibly get it all on board. It is the hold ~~is~~ overflows with two families luggage & he proposes putting four single men & 3 married couples on board with their luggage.

I don't remember whether I told you that I had to give Christmas Dinner to 17 people? Well I did & everyone said it was excellent which I thought very nice of them.

I made the Christmas Pudding, my first, & it was jolly good, though I do say it myself! I^d could saved my life by giving me a marvellous Tinned soup, Toheroa, it is made from N.Z. shell fish, a bivalve & I believe we have almost the identical thing at Beu so I shall make my own. We had Turkey & Ham with all the accessories, oh! crayfish salad, sort of jellied moulds, Christmas Pudding, Quince Pies, crackers etc.

I'm sorry this is so short but I didn't feel up to writing before & anyhow if I had it would have been a gloomy letter as I was feeling horribly down. However, we are both much better & feeling cheerful again.

Heaps of love from us both
Your loving Honor

1932/3

The Residency,
Ocean Island.

March 8th 1932

Dearest Lady Maude,

At last the "Taveu Chief" with Mary + Arthur on board is actually on her way here + is expected by 8 a.m. tomorrow. They arrived at Taveu last Wednesday afternoon, nearly a week ago + ever since then a westerly, though not a bad one, has been blowing + no work was done. However it has cleared up a bit now + with luck we shall have them ashore tomorrow morning. We are terribly excited + hope they are too. "Tumanoa" is expected on Thursday morning + we may get away the same day so Mary will only have one night ashore on Ocean. The yacht was over here a week ago + was supposed to take M^r Seimble, D^r Macpherson, M^r Bentley + M^r + M^{rs} Blaikie + child to Tarawa, proceed north with M^r Seimble + back here again after about 10 days to fetch all of us. However the westerly sprang up + although most of the cargo was put on board it got too bad for the last load + also for the passengers. We all

trooped down to the jetty to see the people off but everyone came back again! M^r + M^{rs} Blaikie came up on the "Lionna" a week ago + are staying here; the baby is 18 months old + awfully nice. We are going to put Mary + Arthur in our room + we are taking two beds into the little office Harry is using.

"Nimanoa" brought us heaps of mail when she came over from the group + we had a glorious time. I have so many things to thank you for + liked them all so much that I don't know where to begin. I have received a cretonne coat, a cretonne frock, orange, a lovely blue flowered Japanese water, two hats + a table cloth + cushion cover. I love them all + thank you very, very much. The cretonne coat has been most useful, it is just right for westerly weather + keeps me just nice + warm. The frock, with slight alteration fits beautifully + so does the smaller beribboned hat. The blue coat is lovely + will go beautifully with a white cipe de chine pleated skirt I have made. The blue hat was much too tight so I gave it to M^{rs} Cookson whom I like very much; her husband is the Wireless Operator + they are not very well off but awfully nice + she is a perfect marvel at titivating clothes. Anyhow she was very pleased with the hat + it suits her very well.

We have also received the book of snaps of the new house, it looks lovely.

I'm afraid it is an awful time since I last wrote but anyhow there has been no ship to take any letters. I think I told you that Dr Macpherson was here? Harry & I were not well when I wrote but we are all right again now. Harry isn't really well & I still have to be careful what I eat so we have applied for leave & hope to get away with Mary & Arthur. Poor old Mac has been in the wars again, he always gets ill on Ocean Island. It was the beastly old dysentery again, this time the amoeba gave him a liver abscess & he was really very ill for 3 weeks. He hadn't had any signs of dysentery but one day said he was aching in every limb & felt like flu, then he gradually got worse & after a couple of days had most acute pain in his right side, high temperature & vomiting. I was nurse again, last time do you remember it was appendicitis, also caused by the amoeba. It was pretty hard work for a couple of weeks as he was in great pain, very restless & depressed. Emetine, which is given to kill the amoeba is very depressing stuff. He is getting about quite well now & has been

helping me to pack but he was very shaky when he first got up. It is going to be a terrific squash on "Nimanoa"; there will be 8 of us + a baby. + I'm sure they'll never get all the luggage on board. Our present plans, if all goes well, are as follows: we leave "Nimanoa" at Bevu, collect some stores + on her return from the Ellice get her to take us to Onotua, take a murder trial there + then proceed to Tahiteua. Back to Bevu sometime in May + away to the Ellice, Fiji + New Zealand. If it all works out we shall have a lovely time with Mary + Arthur + 3 months leave in N.Z. at the end of their visit. It will be winter of course, in Auckland but I daresay the cold will be good for us. Harry sat for his Higher Gilbertese exam just over a month ago + passed well M^r Brimble says. It was half oral + half written, Harry had to talk to a lot of old men + also translate some regulations + in the written work he had to translate a Labour Ordinance amongst other things. M^r Brimble just looked through his papers at the time + said he had passed easily but although he has told everyone that Harry has passed he hasn't corrected his papers yet so it isn't really official. I hope to goodness he won't forget he is in such a queer state of mind these

days. He has changed completely, it is high time he went on leave, he is upsetting everyone & making himself thoroughly unpopular. He has reduced me to a nervous wreck & I keep out of his way as much as possible; he is nervous, irritable, thoroughly selfish & inconsiderate to everyone. Awful things to say but no one has a good word for him now, no one comes near the Residency & he hardly ever goes out. He is ill of course but it doesn't make it any easier for us.

We had great excitement a few days ago & I had my first experience of a native fight. I went out to the kitchen the morning after the Blaukies arrived to see how breakfast was progressing; Karo (M^r Grumble's wash girl) was standing just outside the kitchen quietly crying, & Kiewa (Kee-say-wa) was busy in the kitchen. I asked the latter what Karo was crying for & he replied that he thought she had been playing with the toys. A minute or so later, while I was still in the kitchen, he went out, I presumed to tell Karo, who was crying more loudly, to make her noise elsewhere & the next moment they were fighting like cats! I had the surprise of my life & dashed to the rescue. Teikarawa

was endeavouring to hold Kirewa who was trying to hit Karo with my silver hot water jug & Smo, the doctor's orderly, had hold of Karo who was armed with a broom. They took absolutely no notice of me but the boys got them apart, I rescued my silver jug & then tried to lead Karo away. Kirewa in the meantime got away from Teikarawa & rushing round the kitchen verandah planted himself in front of the wood box past which I had to take Karo. Kirewa obviously meant to hit Karo over the head with a log of wood if he got the chance but eventually I got her safely past & handed over to ~~an~~ a native with instructions to take her away. Kirewa was persuaded to return to the kitchen, while with fury, I told him to get on with his work & that I would talk to him & Karo when their tempers had cooled. I returned to my bedroom feeling rather shaky after all the excitement but I hadn't been there five minutes when Kimakei came in to say that Kirewa had followed Karo to the house she was in & that he was very angry. I was angry too as he had deliberately disobeyed me but I was also a bit scared as the Gilbertese are awful when roused.

However, out I went & found Karo howling & screaming at Kiewa & the latter yelling at her & threatening to attack her. I again told Kiewa to go to the kitchen & that we would talk later but he said Karo was telling lies; I wasn't taking any notice of her but that didn't seem to strike him. There was a fair audience by this time, Mr & Mrs Blaukie on the verandah & Harry, who was not well, emerging from the bedroom glad in pyjamas. I got hold of Karo once more meaning to keep her in my room & I was half way up the steps on to the verandah, pulling Karo by one arm when Kiewa suddenly rushed at her, got hold of her legs & pulled her down the steps. I shrieked & everyone made a dive for Kiewa who was held until Karo was safely inside. Mr Gemble at last wakened by the noise appeared on the scene & the two dogs had a fight! As both Karo & Kiewa are Mr Gemble's servants I left the matter to him but I'm afraid they have not been punished. In the enclosed snaps you will see Kiewa but not Karo.

Thursday.

Mary & Arthur arrived yesterday & we had a lovely day to get them ashore. We were supposed to leave today but the

westerly blew up again in the night & "Timanoa" has not come in yet. We hope to get away tomorrow, I hate this waiting about but I hope we have good weather.

We have been packing desperately as we have had such short notice & I'm very tired. Mary & Arthur don't want to be up here very long & we are going to try to get away in about 5 weeks. we shall see what ships there are when we get to Tareawa. Mary is very thin but seems fairly well & Arthur appears to be full of beans. We have been so busy really that we have hardly had time to have a good talk.

Much love to you all

Love loving,

Honor -

1932/4

Island of Beu,
Central Pacific,
24th April, 1932.

Dearest Mother and Father,

I'm afraid it's ages since I last wrote to you but he's been fearfully busy as besides being District officer, Southern Gilberts he had to be Census Commissioner and Native Lands Commissioner for Ocean Island.

The Lands Commissioner finished last month and he's sent in my Report, also Reports on the Census of the Ellice and Phoenix Islands, but the counting of the Gilbert Islands is only just completed and he still has the Report to write. He's made out 53 tables showing the details as to Age Groups, General Condition, Religion etc.

Mary and Arthur turned up just before we were leaving Ocean Island last month so we had a week in Tarawa together and then all came on here. They leave on Wednesday, today being Sunday, on the "John Williams", and should reach Suva early in May. It has been wonderful having them here, especially as they both seem so interested in our life and work out here and in our natives. Arthur has made quite an intensive study of our colonial laws and knows them, I believe, better than I do. We had all the Islanders down for a dance last week and everyone thoroughly

enjoyed themselves. Mary and I took a flash-light photo of the dance, which I trust will come out all right.

Neither Hona nor I were at all well at Ocean since Christmas. Hona had tummy trouble with pains in her right side while I had a temperature, tummy troubles and a rigor in the middle of the night. Luckily we had Dr Macpherson staying at the Residency with us so we were all right. The Doctor himself got very ill and Hona had to nurse him through a very trying time. I started to get better the moment I left Ocean Island and have put on 4 lbs. since I arrived here. I'm now over 10 stone again for the first time for many years. Hona, after she got over the awful voyage, began to pick up but on Thursday she went down again with her old tummy troubles and the ache in her right side. She was sick three times on ~~Friday~~ ^{Thursday} but was better on ~~Friday~~ ^{Friday}, ~~however~~ ^{Friday} Saturday. However, as she seemed bad on Saturday the Eastmans kindly came across and have examined her and given her appropriate medicine in case it got bad again while they're away - They are going on long leave to England. We thought seriously of sending Hona down on the "John Williams" too, to stay with her relations in New Zealand, but Mr Eastman, who is very clever indeed at doctoring, says there is nothing to worry about at all as the trouble in the appendix is of the rheumatic type which does not get acute which is what one fears up here. It is very

difficult to know what is wisest to do but in any case the voyage alone to New Zealand would probably upset Homer more than staying up here.

In any case when I was in Ocean Island I sent in my application for leave for next month and H.H. told me that I can take it as soon as the District work is up to date and the murder trial on Orotoa Island finished. There's been another murder on Orotoa - about Christmas - a woman this time, who murdered another woman out of jealousy. The trouble is to get there. He's been writing hard and have got the District work up to date, with the aid of a typist who I have to employ myself as I can get none out of the Government. Altogether he's written close on 50 letters in the last 3 weeks so now the murder on Orotoa and one or two small jobs are all that prevent us from going on leave on the "John Williams" as it is we shall probably be able to get to Auckland, where we hope to spend our 3 months leave, via Suva on the "Himaroa"; otherwise we shall presumably have to go via Ocean Island.

We're only going on leave to get the necessary repairs to our systems - Homer's appendix will possibly have to come out and I have got to have all my top teeth extracted and a plate put in. He's no

anxiety to exchange my peaceful District for the turmoil of civilization. No sooner do I get my means of work done and begin to work on the new schemes for improvement of organization etc. than I seem to have to clear off for some reason or other until further means of work pile up. I'm very anxious to write a "Handbook for Native Magistrates, Chiefs of Kambune and Scribes" but I don't seem to have any time.

I passed my final Exam. in Higher Galleitese in February so now I've only the Law left and two and a half years still to go. My Higher Galleitese was a humble exam. as I had a board of examiners consisting of six Galleitese, none of whom could speak English, and I had to interpret what H.H. said to me in English & then their answers. Then I had to expound various laws to them and keep up a running conversation, after which I had to translate part of an Ordinance into Galleitese, this part being written.

I really believe Mary and Arthur have enjoyed their stay here and they have certainly interested themselves in the Islands and their lives more than I had dared to hope they would. They should be able to give you as good an account of Bern as ourselves. We went up last week to the northern bungalow and had a great time bathing and exploring the northern shores. Arthur and I also sailed a canoe up north all by ourselves, to the attachment of the village of Anoman. We bathe every day from the little Jetty House.

Compton, the Superintendent of Wako, is also down here, building a new and

European house for the new Doctor who is to be medical officer for my District. There has never been a medical officer in the Southern Gilberts before so the natives are quite excited. He is a New Zealander - Steenson by name - and arrived at Tarawa just as we were going up to Ocean Island. He's been at Tarawa ever since as Dr. Young, the S.M.O., is on leave. However Dr. Young should be back in a month or so & Dr. Steenson will then come south as his house is now ready, in fact Mr. Compton is living in it. The walls are of cement bricks and the roof of fibrolite tiles - all very solid and durable but I'd prefer a native house any day.

The Public Works man has however built three very nice European rooms for us, a Kitchen, a Bathroom and a Mosquito Room, the first two out of fibro cement and the other out of wood and perforated zinc.

Thank you very much for the parcels which were recently received and containing a pair of slats, some stockings and some lovely necklaces. The necklaces were just what the women here admire but can't get and the slats are far nicer than the ones I had made at Cambridge - they are rather on the larger size round the middle but it doesn't matter - do send some more if you can get them.

By the way, the first of our joint efforts in Anthropology was accepted by the "Journal of the Polynesian Society" and published in their December number. I enclose three duly initialed authors copies! We wrote it just before leaving for Ocean Island this last time but didn't say anything about it in case it was not published. ^{Incidentally, the} Polynesian Society is well worth joining - a guinea a year - as they have a quarterly Journal on Pacific Anthropology which should contain some further articles by us fairly soon. If you'd like to join I'll arrange it - they deserve encouragement! We had some correspondence with the Editors and they are very anxious to publish anything further we may write but I doubt if it is wise to put all one's eggs in one basket. The Journal is old established and easily the leading specialist authority on Pacific Ethnology but the "Journal of the Royal Anthropological Society" is, I suppose, more widely read.

I enclose a cheque for £3, as I presume our subscriptions to the various reviews etc. must be overdue. Do please write and tell us what we owe you.

With love from your
devoted son,

~~Yours sincerely,~~ ^{Sorry!!!}

J.L. Hauke.

1932/5

Beau.

Central Pacific.

June 12th 1932

Dearest Lady Maude,

I was very sorry ~~to~~ couldn't write to you last mail but you will no doubt get all the news from Mary, probably before this reaches you. We are still waiting hopefully for "Pimanoa", when Mary & Arthur left we expected her in about 10 days time & we have been waiting for 6 weeks! We were very glad of the delay as we have done the packing most comfortably & are getting on with anthropology while we wait. We had had a wireless from Ocean to say that we are to proceed to Ocean Island on "Pimanoa" en route for leave, whether we get to New Zealand or Australia remains to be seen. We have also been told, much to our disgust, that on our return we shall be stationed at Tarawa for a time & afterwards probably at Ocean. Harry says he thinks it will be only for a year or so, relieving others who are due for leave & he thinks it most probable that we shall return here then. I hope so as I hate leaving this house & my garden. I have been quite well since I recovered from the last go of tummy trouble, I have been taking Ovaltine instead of tea & coffee, twice

a day & have put on 5 lbs., isn't that good? I was 7 1/4 lbs. when Mary left & I'm now 7 1/2 lbs. As it seems to have done me good I'm giving it to Harry too but if the ship doesn't buck up we shall run out of milk!

We did love having Mary & Arthur here & I wished they didn't have to go so soon or that we could have gone too but we soon settled down again & it seems now like a very pleasant dream. Our original intention was to go to Fiji on "Nimanoa" & then to N.Z. but the little bunte went off to Fiji from the Ellice so we are stranded. We are hoping to get a letter from Mary when "Nimanoa" returns, I also want to hear how they got on in the "John Williams". Coming from Ocean Island to Tarawa we hit another island & were on the reef for about 1/4 of an hour but no damage was done & coming down to Beere we had beastly rough weather & Mary & I were very unhappy.

While they were on Beere we only had fair weather, we had a lot of rain, & it rained nearly every time we arranged to have a picnic! Since then it has been fine I think though it often rains about 3 p.m. & prevents our going for a sail. By the way Harry & I sail our own canoe now & have been out quite often & visited the various ^{villages} islands. We got home rather late one night & stuck on a sandbank near one of the beacons but that didn't matter. Before

That we went over the most awful coral heads which were only just below the surface. It was such a big patch that Harry thought it was only a sandbank with weed growing on it as most of the rocks in the lagoon are just single heads, but when we saw what we over I think our hearts nearly stopped beating! It would have been unpleasant I suppose if we had struck but we shouldn't have come to any harm really. Yesterday afternoon we went out in the big canoe with a huge mat sail that Harry has had made. We went across the lagoon to one of the villages to find out about fishing rights from two old men. There were five of us in the canoe, Harry & me (quite ungrammatical!) Ete, the Chief of Police & another policeman; it takes two strong people to get up the sail it is so heavy, it has one great drawback & that is that if it rains gets wet in a shower the canoe capsizes so it has to be hurriedly pulled down, rather a job in deep water with a tremendous sail like ours. We went over to the village in fine style but as we embarked for the return journey we saw a very heavy black cloud coming up. The wind had absolutely dropped, the calm before the storm I suppose, & we simply crawled. Then it freshened & we saw the rain strike the north of the island, pelting too by the look of it. We looked at the

rain & we looked at the Cook station & we all made up our minds that we were in for a jolly good wetting but decided to race for a passage between sand banks which we have to go through to get home & which is about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the jetty with only shallow water between it & home. We all sat on the outrigger, in spite of which it went up into the air, & we simply ~~sped~~^{flew} to the passage. The rain looked very near as we reached the shallow water & the wind was very strong but we kept the sail up & got right home before the rain caught us. It was a most exciting race. It looked as though we were in for a westerly but the rain seemed to concentrate on the north of the island, we got very little in spite of the wind & after an hour or two that died down.

A few weeks ago Harry sent a message to every village saying he would buy any really old things they brought him. The first day a good number of people arrived with some very fine specimens of old cooking utensils, ornaments etc. & when others heard that Harry was mad enough to actually pay them for old stuff we got some absolutely marvellous things. Harry is very lucky because if it is possible to get such good things from a civilised island like Beere we should get wonderful stuff from an island like Tabiteuea.


Harry has another article almost ready for publication, we just have some photos to take when we are on ocean & also a terrace to remeasure. This time it is the Social Organisation of Banaba, it should be published in the September Journal of the Polynesian Society. We have been doing a lot of material culture & also games & hope to write some up while on leave. For the King's Birthday celebrations this year, instead of dancing & card playing all day Harry revived a number of old Gilbertese games & arranged matches. They were most successful & the people thoroughly enjoyed it, they said it was nicest King's Birthday they ~~had~~ could remember & that there had never been so much for them to do. They are absolute terriers & have to have everything arranged & organised for them. They came down of the Thursday & stayed on the Govt. Station until the following Tuesday morning. On Friday, the King's Birthday, we had the usual ceremony of saluting the flag at 10 a.m. There were about 2,000 natives gathered round the flag staff, all the Rongorongo students & teachers, about 200, all the Europeans, the Catholic Father & about 30 of his boys. Harry gave a very good speech, (the Missionaries said it was good too!) mainly to the effect that they were all a great deal too self satisfied, that they were not half the men their grandfathers were & that it was about time

They woke up, did a spot of work & ~~had~~ ^{had} some pride in their island. He told them a little of their past history, pointed out that Beu used to be the centre of Gilbertese culture & learning & that they had something to be proud of. After this speech we sang God Save The King, gave out that there to be a Treasure hunt & then games & retired to the house for a little refreshment. M^r & M^{rs} Spiwey; a young couple with one baby girl, who have come to carry on in the Eastman's' place; M^r & M^{rs} Levett, Miss Pateman & Father Mays all came in for a drink. Then I had two events for children, musical bumps for girls & a three legged race for boys, as Monica Levett has always missed the sports & was very anxious to see some. In the meantime everyone was hunting for "treasure". We had buried 6 packets of 3/- & one of 2/- in the roots of the pandanus trees in various portions of the Cook station & the only clue was that it was near pandanus trees, not very enlightening as there are so many! Nevertheless they very soon found three which were fairly near the house & maneaba but the rest were not found until Monday or Tuesday when Harry told them they hadn't found all. By the time we had finished the children's races it was mid-day, the Rongorongo people had brought their lunch & retired to have a picnic & we had our meal. One other thing we had before lunch that I had forgotten was very

interesting. A man was entirely covered with the fibres of the coconut tree, it is bound on with strips of tough fibrous skin torn from the back of the midrib, the face was covered with a mask made of pandanus leaves & the result was a rather frightening apparition which looked like a bear! This creature wandered round the station collecting what he could, when he came to us Harry gave him a stick of tobacco, Mr Compton some cigarettes, & I gave him a pot of Grape Fruit marmalade + Mr Levett, who had nothing handy, picked a flower from a bush & popped it into the protruding mouth of the mask, to the huge delight of the spectators. Kouera of course couldn't bear it & attacked the poor man on sight, he only chewed his stick but I thought it best to have him removed as there was such cheers on his behalf that he might have got too excited & rough.

The games started about 2 p.m. & everyone went to watch the various matches, I hurriedly made some cakes as I had asked the L.M.S. people to come & have tea before going home; fortunately it was not a case of more haste less speed, & the cakes were quite a success. Then I joined the others & saw several different games, one of them was stilts! Unfortunately they have lost the art of making them & they kept on breaking but the idea of the

game is to upset your opponent by tripping him up with one stick. The Rongorongo people seemed to enjoy themselves but they all thought they were being quite Jewolous, if not wicked, to take a holiday & have a picnic. They would not have dared to suggest it if Mr Eastman had been here, they said they had never done it before. They seem to think that gatherings at the Cook station are wicked & when Harry asked Mr Spivey & Mr Levett to go into the maneaba to see a game very similar to nine pins, he says they argued for about 5 mins. & seemed very doubtful if they ought to go in. Surely if you want to convert & ~~keep~~ the people Christianis you should mix with them & find out what you are up against. Anyhow I call it rather an insult to imagine we encourage & watch things which are not fit for them to see. However they went in & I noticed that one of their own teachers ~~was~~ playing! They said when they left that they had no idea the Gilbertese had so many games. What a pity they ^{first missionaries} didn't find out & encourage these really good games long ago instead of putting all their energies into stopping everything. Of course the natives always have crazes & either do a thing to death or else don't do it all but they want to be taught moderation, not forbidden to play at all. We went & watched the dancing on Saturday night &

Harry gave a prize to the best village. It was really very pretty, there were five girls & about 50 men, the girls stood in front & the men in ranks behind them. They all had grass skirts but the girls' looked just like crinolines & were very full, long & three tiered, sort of flounced.  something like that. They were most original & did little pirouettes & side steps. I gave each of the girls one of the necklaces you sent us, I put them round their necks but I had an awful job as their hair & skin was covered with oil & my fingers got all oily & I simply couldn't get hold of the clasps!

The people all gave us mats as a parting present, we had 36 altogether, a lovely lot & awfully nice of them to do it. They say they don't want us to go & want to send a wireless to ask if we need! I believe they are going to write a letter to the R.C. Which reminds me that the transmitter at Rongorongo has given out so all they can do is to pick up odd bits of news but not communicate. We have had no letters yet but the Macquarie should be down this way soon. We wanted to send a message to Tarawa to ask them to hold our mail in case we miss the Macquarie, now we can't which is rather trying but if "Nimanoa" is much longer the Macquarie will be here first. We are to go to Onotoa & do the murder trial & then proceed to Tarawa

We have, of course, had to pack every single thing & hope to take it all to Tarawa with us ready for our return. It has been an awful job but is done now except for the things we are actually using & I haven't left out much! In fact we have got to the stage where we have to unpack again as we run short of things. All the pot plants are outside under a large shady tree & Miss Pateman is looking after the hanging ones. I've got tomatoes & melons coming on, this time the doctor can have them, he is supposed to be coming down this month.

Mary will have told you about the alterations in the house & the new kitchen, bathroom & mosquito room. Since they left the room they had has been re-walled & looks more respectable. If Mary is with you tell her I am most exemplary & rest every afternoon, the worst of it is that whereas I used to find it difficult to sleep ^{at all} I can't wake up under about 2 hours now! The day after the King's Birthday I slept for 2½ hours but it had been a hectic day.

We have been having great fun with a "Home Recorder" Harry got. We wanted to make records of native songs; this apparatus is very simple, a sound box with a horn attached which replaces the ordinary sound box, it has a cutting needle & a tracing needle attached too: Then there is a tracing record, it looks like an ~~ordinary~~

ordinary record but makes no sound & is only lined half way; ~~over~~ ^{on} the centre of this is placed a rubber mat & on the mat a small metal disk, the new record. One needle traces the outline on the half record & the other, a small diamond cutter, cuts the new record while the person sings into the horn. The natives think it a marvellous instrument & one old man wanted to know if there was somebody inside imitating them! Unfortunately the apparatus is too heavy or something wants readjusting inside the machine as I have to take some of the pressure off the tone arm while Harry winds. Unless I am awfully careful the speed varies with astonishing results which cause peals of laughter. We did one song the other evening, an even droning chant but on the record the voice suddenly goes very very fast & sounds absolutely too funny. Another funny record was made by Ete's cousin, she was to sing three short songs, she got through ~~two~~ then started to giggle, couldn't remember what she was to sing so said, into the horn, "e aki eke" it won't come & went into peals of laughter all of which comes out on the record. She nearly had hysterics when she heard it!

I expect I shall add to this at Onotoa or Tarawa unless we are still here a week or two hence. "Nimanoa" must surely come soon now.

June 19th

Still here but yesterday we got a little news. M^r Levett heard Ocean Island talking to Tarawa & they said that "Timanoa was due to leave Fiji two days ago, whether she did remains to be seen, but that gives us another two weeks anyhow. We haven't had any news of the Macquarie but I imagine she will be coming south very soon & we shall probably go to Onotua on her. If only we could get in touch with her as they might quite possibly go to Onotua before coming here & so be no use to us.

Before I forget, Harry says will you please send Uncle Arthur a copy of "Adoption in the Gilbert Islands". We haven't done anything much this last week except anthropology. I've nearly finished drawing baskets & also their descriptions. Harry has got onto a new track & is fearfully tuckered & very joyful that he has a little longer to find out more.

I'm enclosing a copy of a cutting M^r Compton lent me, it is rather amusing & makes me feel quite a heroine, or perhaps I should say "adventuress", living on such a queer island. There are one or two absolute lies in the article but on the whole it is more what the old man has left unsaid rather than what he has said. Harry met Capt. Olsen

when he was in Tarawa at the completion of the Census trip + he says that Capt. Olsen tried to get information about the islands from him. He also says that the day he saw him ashore he was so drunk he couldn't have seen the difference between a coconut palm + a "nude childen"! The people on Betio, Tarawa, are much too civilized to have children going about naked, more's the pity, + as for being frightened, they are so used to white people that they probably wouldn't look at one twice.

The "adventurers" were the managers of Burn's Philp's store, probably some R. Catholic fathers + certainly no one who hadn't a job out here. As for his "little speck of land", it is one of our largest islands, there is most certainly a dot in any atlas + it is quite easy to get a chart of it. The only part that "sinks from view" are the passages, it sounds as if we all had to wade or swim once in 24 hours! He doesn't mention the fact that they had a load of stores etc. for B.P.'s or that they waded copra, their only reason for calling apparently being to land "adventurers".

He seems surprised at having to anchor $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile off shore, he does not exaggerate here, but if he went to almost any other island he'd find he had to anchor anything from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ or 5 miles off shore! I should not call the men, as a general rule, giants in stature, nor

all the women tall & slender. He says, "nothing but coconuts sustain the people, what about pandanus & babai not to mention the rations of rice, flour etc. the particular natives he saw live on. However I suppose the true facts wouldn't sound thrilling enough but it's awful to read such rubbish when one knows what the place is really like.

I think I had better end this or the envelope will be too bulky & probably split open.

Much love from us both,

Love loving

Honor.

1932/6

"Rannock"

Gilgit Road.

Auckland.

August 7th 1932.

Dearest Lady Maude,

We have been here just on a week now and we are still shivering! The weather is very cold though beautifully sunny; at the moment we are sitting in the sun porch which is the warmest place in the house. This house is perfectly lovely, fairly large & beautifully made. The drawingroom is panelled in oak & has two large tapestry pictures let into the wall. To-night I go into hospital & tomorrow Uncle Carick is to remove my appendix, he says there isn't a shadow of doubt that that is what has been worrying me, beastly nuisance. Harry is going in tonight or tomorrow for a couple of days to have his top teeth removed. He had them X-rayed & all but three are diseased so he should be much healthier when he has got rid of them. Auntie & Uncle have been ever so kind & arranged everything for us & we are so glad we were able to get here. We had the most wonderful luck, we arrived at Ocean Island on Saturday, July 16th, found that there was a ship loading for Auckland, that our passages were booked & that we were due to sail in about 5 days. As it happened we did not leave until the following Saturday, early, so we had just a week at Ocean Island, it was amazing luck.

I can't remember how far I got in my last letter but I don't think our mail had arrived when I closed it. The Mauno turned up one morning at the end of June & brought us a sumptuous mail, 14 letters from you & Sir Walter & heaps of books & several parcels. Thank you ever so much for the beach pyjamas. "Tinanoa"

turned up on July 1st having made the trip from Fiji in ten days. We had a wireless from M^{rs} Gumble telling us when she left Fiji so we were prepared for her. There was a terrific crowd on board, the Captain's wife + two daughters, the engineer's wife + baby, Armstrong + his wife + M^{rs} Bentley, there were three of us of course making a total of 10 adults + one child + the yacht has accommodation for 6! Armstrong had been to Fiji for six weeks + during that time he met + married a Miss Stuart who worked in the High Commission office. She seems to be very nice, she is very quiet + we both liked her very much. The Armstrongs stayed at Beem while we went to Onotua, we left on the Saturday night, arrived on Sunday morning after a wretched crossing + spent five days there. Harry took the murder trial, the woman was found guilty of course but as there was intense provocation we hope she will get off fairly lightly. She is a very nice woman with a good record, she killed the other woman in a fight, unfortunately she called out the woman to fight her + then armed herself with a pen knife. The husband had already been in jail for adultery with this woman + was still carrying on with her + taunting his wife with her inability to stop him.

On our return to Beem we arrived on Friday morning + left again in the evening for Tavea. There was rather a swell on outside the reef, "Nimanua" was not at the correct anchorage but at a place where the swell was worst + one of the canoes capsized + the case with all my kitchen utensils in it was lost. Etc said they would try to get it + I should hear about it before long but I am afraid there was very little hope of getting it up. We had a very good journey to

Tarawa & I was not ill; we were five days there & stayed with the Blackies. The baby Ian, whom I must have mentioned before & whom Mary saw, had grown quite a lot & was talking well in both English & Gilbertese & he wasn't quite two years old. Mr Bentley sprained his ankle the day after we arrived at Tarawa & had to be carried on board when we left. Mr Gemble arranged that the Armstrongs should stay with Mrs Methuen at Ocean Island & we were to go to Mr Bentley. I was very surprised that someone else did not take us when they heard about Mr Bentley's sprained ankle but they didn't. There was the poor man with us shoved on him, his house absolutely filthy although Mr English had been living in it, & two new boys who had steel to learn how he wanted things done. He said he was glad to have us to talk to but I don't think it was quite fair on him. Mr Gemble was still at Ocean Island but expecting to leave in about 3 weeks time, he had been ill again & should have gone ages ago, if he isn't careful he will be absolutely mental, I'm sure he's not far off, he scared me he was so different. The linen frock I received at Tarawa & I like it very much but it is rather big, however I shall probably get it altered here as the skirt will need careful handling. Thank you very much indeed for it & also for the green & white silk which I found here on my arrival, the latter fits me quite well. I now take S.S.W. & that is sometimes too large. We had a great time getting clothes here & did very well. I am having my old coat dyed nigger brown, I've bought a brown skirt, hat & shoes & the jumper I made goes with them. I also got a woolly skirt, a very pretty one & also warm & a heavy

Cepe de chine frock which is quite warm with a spacer underneath it. Juan's tailor is altering the coat & skirt Mary gave me & I think it will look very nice. Things are much cheaper than we expected & everyone had up.

We had a very good voyage down on the "Myrtlebank" during the journey in 9 days, we only had one rough day but it got very cold after four or five days. I caught a wretched cold which I can't shake off quite, I spent two days in bed on the ship it was so draughty & cold in spite of the radiators. There were only two other passengers besides ourselves, Mr & Mrs Ellis, an elderly couple & he was the first man to find phosphate in the islands & is now a big pot in the B.P.C. They were ever so nice & so were the officers & they were always thinking of our comfort.

There isn't much news I think & as I have to go to the hospital in about an hour & a half I'm beginning to feel a bit restless so I shall stop. Hope I shall be able to write again next week.

Much love to you all.

Your loving

Honor

The Mater Hospital.
Auckland.

August 20th 1932

Dearest Lady Maude,

I hear there is a good mail going out on Monday so I'm just writing a short note to let you know how we are getting on. I am sitting up in an armchair for the first time, it is the 12th day since the operation, & I am feeling very fit though my legs don't seem to belong to me. My appendix was the longest Uncle says he has ever seen being about 7 inches, it had adhered to the liver & then curled itself up behind the colon. Uncle knew it was bad but I think the operation took longer than he expected as he found it quite a tricky job getting the thing disentangled. He says it is a very good thing I didn't have it done in the islands & a mercy I didn't have an acute attack. Anyhow I'm ever so glad the wretched thing has gone at last. It must have been growing for years so I was quite right when I suspected something was wrong when we were at Raleigh Avenue but even that man in Hailey Street said it was all right. I really had a very easy time except for my cough which was very bad one day & hurt dreadfully. Uncle was afraid

I might do some damage but as far as he saw all at present everything is all right. The stuff they gave me to put me to sleep was simply wonderful. It is injected into the towel & induces an absolutely dreamless sleep which seemed to me to be short too. I was not really conscious until 8:30 p.m. The operation was at 11 a.m. & I was astonished when they told me it was evening.

Harry had his top teeth out the same morning. He went into the theatre as I came out, & his gums healed up ever so well. He has a set of teeth in now, I couldn't bear them at first but I'm getting more used to them now. He has now developed a streaming cold so I don't see him very much. This Hospital is run by nuns & the Sisters & nurses are all very nice & always cheerful. They make me scream with laughter sometimes. I've got earphones by the bed & listen to music most evenings. Mr. Lockett has been to see me twice & last time brought Arthur. He is such a nice looking boy & speaks very nicely indeed, I was very taken with him. I am hoping Harry will find time to write by this mail too.

Much love to you all
 Your loving
 Honor

"I think yr. 3^d daughter a most
charming girl & eminently fitted
to take on full with honors & credit
the position of an Empress's ^{dear} ~~dear~~
wife & there is no doubt at all
her neeboard has chosen the care
he is preeminently & materially
fitted for. Yes - I like & admire
these both very much indeed
& you may well feel proud of
them.

Yr. Light foot -
Cecilia Hand.

(Extract from a letter to M^r Maxwell written
probably about Aug. /32).

1932/7

"Rannock"

Auckland, New Zealand.

21st August, 1932.

dearest Mother and Father,

Honor has told you how we eventually succeeded in leaving Beru and arriving here. We had only been here a few days when her Uncle had a look at her appendix, or rather the region where it lies, and said that it should come out at once. The Dentist also x-rayed my teeth and said that the top lot had to come out, as we expected. So we were both shoved into Hospital and given a pre-anesthetic which sent us delightfully to sleep. Then Sir Carrick operated on Honor and as she was wheeled out of the operating theatre they wheeled me in, though I didn't know much about it, and took all my top teeth out. Of course they gave us proper anaesthetics as well but as we were both soundly asleep we didn't mind that.

I stayed in Hospital that night and left the afternoon of the next day. It was all very nice as nothing hurt at all and my gums didn't bleed and I was able to have a new set in within a week. As my gums were so hard I was able to bite in my new teeth from the start and they never hurt me at all. The only trouble is, that since ~~my~~ I forgot to go and see the Dentist who was to make my plate until after I had had them out, the new set are not a bit like the old ones and so I don't look like myself at all, but more like Rudolph

Valentino. Hena had quite a shock when she first saw me with them on but I believe she quite likes them now secretly.

Hena is still in bed though she is progressing satisfactorily and got up for an hour and a half today. It will be a fortnight tomorrow since we were operated on.

Auckland is a ripping place and just like England - so different to Australia. It's horribly cold all the time at present and I have not felt warm since we arrived - it's really frightful. I can't understand why anyone wants to live out of the tropics - as far as climate and congenial surroundings go I never want to leave the Gilberts for half an hour.

Please excuse the note-paper, it's all we've got, since Hena has got our proper writing pad, also the extra vile handwriting which is due to the cold. As usual I'm fantastically busy - we aim to catalogue, describe and photograph the Gilbertese material culture in the ~~Auckland~~ ~~Museum~~ New Zealand Museum and have made a start with the Auckland Museum.

We came down from Ocea with Mr. Ellis, the New Zealand Phosphate Commissioner, as Hena has probably told you. He is the famous man who discovered the Phosphate on Ocea and Nouse and started the whole show going by landing on Ocea in 1900 and collecting a ship-load with the help of the Banabans. Since then, of course, he has been identified with the growth of the whole outfit and is the only man alive who has

(2)

seen the thing expand from its tiny beginnings. After the war Mr. Ellis and the other share-holders of the old Pacific Phosphate Company sold the business to the government for $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions and he was made one of the three Commissioners. He recently got a C.M.G. Anyway this is all beside the point.

I naturally showed Mr. Ellis all we had been writing on the Anthropology of Ocean Island, of which more anon, and he seemed very impressed. He said that, although he had lived in close contact with the Banabans for over 30 years, he had had no idea that they were such an interesting crowd ethnologically, and he was delighted that their customs had been studied before it was too late.

Anyway after a few days he came out with the proposition that we should write a joint book to be entitled, "Ocean Island - Past and Present." Myself to write Part I,

"Ocean Island - Past," dealing with the Islanders, their history, customs, rites de passage, social structure, housing, material culture etc. and him to write Part II,

"Ocean Island - Present." I would stop at 1900 with the coming of the white man and he'd then take up the thread and deal with the discovery of the Phosphate and the growth and development of the Company. Naturally I jumped at the idea as it would be a great chance for me to be associated with such a man as Mr. Ellis in a book, since he's known all over the world and will himself guarantee a large sale for the book.

Well, everything depends now on the attitude taken by the other two Commissioners, the British and Australian government appointed ones. Mr. Ellis has written to them putting forward his views and pointing out that the attempt will be made and is being made now to write up Ocean Island and its industry - he

read no less than 4 articles this year on the subject - and that it is obviously better that it be done finally and authoritatively by experts rather than in the haphazard & journalistical which is being turned out at present. as the book will necessitate the use of the confidential files of the Commission the consent of all the Commissioners has to be obtained first and Mr Ellis seems doubtful if they will let us do it, but I should have thought that they'd jump at the opportunity of getting him to write anything, as he's over 65 and already almost a legendary character throughout the South Seas. However, it appears that they dislike advertisement.

It really strikes me as something rather good and entirely novel - this combination between a young impractical orientalist and an old hard-headed business man in the writing of a joint book, and get this is no doubt that the book would just ideally cover the whole subject of the Island from A to Z. He is the world's greatest authority on phosphate and I couldn't tell a piece of phosphate from a lump of coal; he knows next to nothing of the natives and I at any rate know more than anyone else on the natives of ~~that~~ that particular island.

24 8 32 Please excuse the pencil but I can't get at my pen as Lady Robertson has some visitors in the room where I keep it and if I go there I'll never get away. I brought down some 70 odd photos from the Gallies to be developed - all Anthropological - and although I hadn't kept them in tea or anything they all came out beautifully - the finest I've ever taken by fan - and they make beautiful enlargements - tell Mary. The Auckland Institute offered to make Lantern Slides of any or all free of charge if they could keep ~~them~~ duplicates and as Lantern Slides

cost 3/- said to make here that suits me.

We're being badged by various societies and schools to lecture but so far he's held out with the exception of the Anthropological section of the Auckland Museum and Institute whom he half promised to lecture to on some aspect of Micronesian Ethnology. Anyway it's good practice for the future. The King's School have looked me for a lecture next term although I never said I would and anyway I can't lecture to children and hope I never shall have to. There seems no doubt to my mind that anthropology is the science of the future. There appears to be such tremendous interest in it nowadays and when the depression lifts it should leap ahead. Even in Auckland they're talking of a lectureship in Anthropology and a Chair of Pacific Languages, both of which jobs make one's mouth water. Raymond Firth, who was a schoolmaster here recently, got a Ph.D. in Anthropology, and then became Lecturer at Sydney and has just been made Lecturer in Social Anthropology at London - Te Rangi Huroa who was a doctor under Sir Cunliffe here for some years, joined the Bishop Museum staff and has now been made lecturer in Anthropology at Yale, so it shows what can be done. Of course Te Rangi Huroa is a Maori but one would think that would count against him in America where they're so green on "Colours".

Some things are cheaper here than in England but most things, especially those involving much use of labour, are a bit more expensive. However it's much better than Australia, although, as we've had to bring most of our money across, we lose £14 in £100 on the exchange.

I went to a Rotary Lunch on Monday with Mr. Ellis,

rather a good show - I sat between a Plumber and a Building Contractor. Last night I was at a lecture on "Modern Native Religious movements," and heard all about the Rastafarian movement to which some 34,000 of the natives belong. As usual in the Pacific the Europeans seem to have done the natives down, though not quite so deeply as elsewhere in the Polynesian area. The speaker was a native and a very excellent orator he was too, like most of his race.

I must stop now but will write again before long and give an account of our leave.

With love from
your devoted son,

Harry

1932/8

"Rannoch"

Gilgit Road.

Auckland.

Sept. 5th 1932

Dearest Lady Maude,

We are still shivering as the weather has decided to turn dull & cold again. We hope to leave here for Dunedin at the end of this week but it depends how the dentist gets on with my teeth. They are in an awful state, so many holes but apparently quite healthy. They took an X-ray photo of the splinter in the lower jaw, the dentist says its another root, isn't it a nuisance? We shall go to several other places on the way down & have a look round, when we return Uncle Carrick wants Auntie to take us to Rotorua, Waitomo Caves & the farm my cousin runs, in the car. She doesn't seem very keen on the idea but he says the holiday would do her good so I don't know what will happen. We have been to two "Talkies" & one musical comedy & we weren't awfully thrilled with any of them. Yesterday Auntie & I walked to church, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile away & up & down hill so I'm really getting about again. Harry seems to spend most of his time in the museum & the men there are all very nice & he can do more or less what he likes. I've been out of hospital for a week, I was almost there

weeks there but I was able to get about, bath myself
etc. before I left.

Hope we shall have something more interesting to
tell you next mail, I must fly to the dentist.

Much love to you all from us both.

Yours loving

Honor



1932/9

P.O. Box 372.
Telephone 42-190.
Telegrams: "CECIL"

Lambton Quay,

Wellington, September 24th 1932.
N.Z.

Dearest Lady Maude,

I have written a long letter to Mother which I have asked her to send on to you as Harry + I are spending our time copying out things on the Gilbert Islands from the library here. The books are unobtainable anywhere else here + we want to get finished as soon as possible + get back to Auckland. We have been away nearly a fortnight and have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We went to Dunedin + stayed with Mr + Mrs Skinner, he is the Lecturer in Anthropology at Otago University. It was very cold but I believe it did us a lot of good, I feel much more energetic + better altogether + Harry looks much fitter too though he didn't look as though he was enjoying the cold!

Much love to you all,

Your loving,

Honor.

1932/11

Te Kuiti,

16th October, 1932.

Dearest Mother and Father,

I don't remember if I told you about our journey down south or not. Anyway, when I'd tentatively finished with the dentist and Hona was feeling a bit more like herself again we went down to Wellington by train - an all-night journey. As Hona wasn't too fit we had a sleeping compartment and travelled in luxurious comfort. I sat on the foot of Hona's bed from 12 to 2 while we passed through the highlands as it was glorious moonlight. We went all along the foot of Mt. Tongariro as you'll see on the map and it looked wonderful, glistening white in the moonlight, being covered with snow. We only stayed a day or two in Wellington, at the Cecil Hotel and then went on to Dunedin to stay with the Skinnies - as you know he's the lecturer in Anthropology at Otago University. We crossed from North to South Island on the "Rangitira," twice as good as any of the Jersey boats and cheaper. Everything was spotless on board and we had air vents blowing in fresh

in to the cabin. You could alter the volume of the flow as you wished and direct it to any part of the cabin. There's hot and cold water laid on to every cabin and they bring you tea and biscuits in the morning free. And as everywhere in New Zealand, neither the stewardesses nor anyone else expects a tip. It took me some time to get used to this tipless world - when you have a haircut you just pay your shilling and you never think of tipping a taxi driver. Taxis too are so cheap that we often use them - in Auckland they're 1/- for the first 2 miles and 1/6 for the first four. Many people have given up their cars as it's said to be cheaper to ride in a taxi than to own one's own car.

The Skensie's were the soul of kindness and we had a very enjoyable stay in Dunedin though he kept me busy with anthropology from morning to night. As there are by now virtually no moans left in the Otago district, Mr Skensie's work is almost entirely typological and is largely based on digging at old camp sites etc. In fact it's very similar to the work in prehistoric archaeology being done now in England and France. We had a day's digging at a site some 15 miles from Dunedin - I found a piece of worked Greenstone in close proximity to moa bones and Hiner found a bone fish

gong and a needle. We also found dozens of fragments of
hoia bones around an old hearth about 15 feet below the
present surface level which tends to prove that the hoia was
not extinct when the Maories first came.

Both Hona and I gave an hour lecture each to
the Anthropological students at Otago University. I dealt with
the Gullbato in general and the social organization of the
Gullbertese and Hona with their material culture. We
illustrated both our lectures with our collection of lantern slides
which were prepared by the Auckland Museum. Hona also
gave a talk on String Figures and did some forty of them for
the class. I never really thought that Hona would

ever give a lecture but she turned out to be a very
successful lecturer indeed - much better than I was! She
has a very good delivery and never seemed to be stumped for
what to say although she did not write out her talk
beforhand.

Mr. Skinner gave me a very nice mounted collection
illustrating the Maori artifacts that are being dug up at

present and I'll send him some of the duplicates from my Gilbertese collection in return.

We travelled back from Dunedin to Christchurch by service car and had a very nice driver who kept buying sweets and nuts which we had all to share. We supplemented with oranges and had a very pleasant trip. The New Zealanders are quite different from the Australians and seem to be born naturally nice. They're extremely democratic and everyone chats in terms of equality with me, from the driver of meo's taxi to the girl behind the counter in a shop where they always say good bye or cheerio after you've made your purchases instead of the colourless English good day.

We stayed in Wellington several days on the return trip as we had a lot of work to do in the Turnbull Library there. The Turnbull Library is a really first class show and has a better collection of literature dealing with the islands than the British Museum. We made a complete Bibliography of every book, pamphlet or manuscript dealing with the Gilbert or Ellice Islands - some forty or fifty in all, and everything of importance which we couldn't buy.

we copied out or made a precis of. It took four or five days solid writing with only a break for lunch and even now I've an uneasy feeling that we may have missed something in our haste. I'd like a month there. You'd never believe the number of obscure old books in which one suddenly comes upon a reference to the discovery of one of the Gilberts or the activities of slaves, missionaries or traders before the coming of the Government. We've copied out some genes, giving a valuable insight into that dark period of Gilbertese history between the coming of the first European about 1830 and the advent of the Government in 1892.

Of course it was only the rare references that we went to the Turnbull Library to get — all the more common articles are in the Libraries at Auckland and I've got a typist copying them out at 1/- a thousand words, thus saving me much time and trouble.

The second best account of the Gilbertese, written in 1880, Kraemer's "Hawaii, Aotomukinesien und Samoa", I was fortunate enough to obtain by exchange from the Turnbull Library, as they had three copies. Unfortunately, like the best account, written by Otto Finsch in 1873, it is in German and I don't see how I can get much further in a

study of comparative Neurological Ethology unless I learn sufficient
of that language to be able to read the wonderful works
written ~~no~~ ~~about~~ ~~them~~ by the Germans. He bought a couple
of tutors which profess to teach one not to talk German
or even to write German but to read German sufficiently
well to be able to understand any scientific work in
that language. Reading only is a far simpler proposition
than writing or talking. Anyway when I find time in the
Gilbeits I'll have a real shot at it as it's well worth
while. Unfortunately these tutors are written in the archaic
German script whereas all German scientific work is printed
in Roman script. I do hope Mother will be able
to help me when we come home on long leave as there will
be a lot of German to be read then.

Our journey to Auckland was uneventful. I slept
this time on an ordinary railway seat as they're really very
comfortable and a sleeper is a totally unnecessary luxury. I
must stop now as evening is going to bed and the mail
leaves here at 8.30 tomorrow morning. However I'll continue
the narrative when I next write.

With love from
your devoted son

Harry.

1932/12 Otamati.

New Zealand.

October 16th 1932

Dearest Lady Maude,

We are very nearly at the end a simply wonderful tour, we are now at my cousin Jack's farm + we return to Auckland the day after tomorrow. We left Auckland on the 10th, motored about 190 miles that day + arrived at Wairakei at 5.30 p.m. We had been having beautiful weather but the day we left it was raining + it got worse all day which made the roads rather slippery but we had only one really nasty bit where we skidded. Wairakei is a thermal region, one valley there abounds in geysers, boiling mud pools, hot water pools + flow holes. On the evening of our arrival we decided to try one of the two open air swimming baths, a hot spring one, + thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We thought it sounded rather a cold idea as you bathe in your birthday suit but although the air was cool the water was quite hot enough to make up for it. Next morning before breakfast we, Joan + I, went for another swim + Haeruf tried the Fairy Springs + the other swimming pool. After breakfast we motored to Lake Taupo hoping to get a good view of the mountains across the lake but

we were disappointed as we could only just see the beginning of the snow. From there we went to the Poutania Rapids, they are gorgeous, tumbling down a very pretty gorge & then away into flatter country. Then we went on to the Huka Falls, they too are wonderful, though of course only small. We returned to the hotel for lunch & afterwards went with a party to visit the Geysers Valley. We had an old Maori guide to take us round who had the most abrupt way of speaking, rather as though he dared you to disobey or contradict.

The first thing we came to was a geyser, steaming furiously below us, this we passed & a short distance farther on halted by an enormous blow hole. All over the valley & up the hillsides were large & small columns of steam, just like a collection of bonfires. The blow hole was working well, it sent up clouds of steam which descended on us in a cold shower. From there we walked on and saw several ~~more~~ geysers, one called the Dragon's Mouth & another the Bird's Nest, the latter had petrified wood all round it & it did look just like a nest. The old guide told us all about everything of course & at first was most difficult to understand; he gabbled away about the properties in the water & looked so fierce that Joan & I found it very hard not to

giggle. We saw the Fairy pools; three rock pools very close together, one containing soda water, one mineral water & the other salt water. After these came boiling mud pools of various descriptions & all round us & beneath us little jets of steam. Passing over a piece of very steamy ground we were led to the best exhibit, so the old man said. On our right was a boiling pool; in front of us & slightly to our right was a fissure emitting gas & something else, it looked just like steam, it was very malodorous & bubbled horribly & on our left a small pink terrace with a geyser at the top. We stayed there about 10 minutes & saw the geyser play & it looked very pretty shooting into the air & then the boiling water tumbling over the pink rocks. We had tea at the hotel & left soon after 4 p.m. for Rotorua. The scenery was very interesting, we saw a number of odd boiling pools or blow holes sending up steam & in one part the hills looked just as though they had been hot & bubbling & had suddenly hardened leaving the bubbles unbroken. We reached Rotorua about 5.30 p.m. but smelt it some time before, it's awfully strong, sulphur & believe. It was much colder & we did not like

The hotel nearly as much as the one at Wairakei as there were a number of noisy & most objectionable people who would make a din up & down the corridors or in their bedrooms until well after midnight.

However, the next morning we took our lunches & set off to see the lakes, there are six of them & we saw them all. We went through a lot of native bush which was simply gorgeous & the lakes were lovely. We had lunch on the edge of one, & scrambled down one which is supposed to be in the crater of an extinct volcano, it was an awfully steep climb anyway. We passed Tikitee which is supposed to be the most active area, I believe the whole place trembles but as it appeared to be nothing but a mass of boiling mud pools we did not go in.

After the lakes we went to Waka, the active area in Rotorua. This time we had a woman guide & just the four of us going round. At Wairakei there seemed to be a good deal of firm ground between the eruptions & the valley wound in & out among the hills, but here everything seems to be in a large basin & the whole place rings hollow. Most of the ground was hot & steaming, I felt one place with my bare hand & jolly nearly burnt myself! We saw

much the same things but it all felt much more unsafe + all the ground around was bare + cracked. It is a marvellous place, you can see the sulphur all round the openings of some of the blow holes + you can smell it everywhere. There are ever so many mud pools boiling away + also water ones. New mud pools seem to appear quite often + I felt quite glad when we were once more on comparatively firm ground.

The next day Joan, Harry + I went for what they call the "Round Trip", we started at 9.30 a.m. + drove about 12 miles to a sort of hostel. There, after waiting for nearly an hour, we picked up a guide + started on a 2½ mile walk through a volcanic area. From the hostel we could see Mt. Tarawera which erupted in 1886 + buried two Maori villages, Lake Rotomahana blew up at the same time + there is a crater near the hostel which also erupted. It must have been a fearsome sight, there were 5 craters on Mt. Tarawera + they say that over a hundred miles away the sky was so black that people thought the end of the world had come. The famous pink + white terraces were

buried at this time & the country round was ^{covered by} hundreds
 of feet of mud. The eruption lasted only 4 hours but
 it poured it rain directly afterwards & this washed
 the mud into great furrows & sharp pointed hills which
 even now are absolutely bare & desolate. Just below the
 hostel is lying Pan flat which blew up in 1917 &
 destroyed the marvellous geyser there. We waded right
 through this valley seeing a few boiling pools, blow
 holes & the scenes of old eruptions. We crossed Lake
 Rotomahana by launch, it is quite warm at the valley
 end & such a lovely green. We passed the places ~~the~~
 where the pink & white terraces are buried; this
 lake has gone down 11ft since the Napier earthquake which
 shows how everything is connected. We had a half-
 mile walk from ~~this~~ lake to Lake Tarawera & then
 another trip in a launch. We were just below the
 mountain & a very desolate & ugly old mountain it is.
 The car met us on the opposite side & we had a 17
 mile drive, passing the blue & green lakes. These
 two small lakes are divided by a high, narrow
 piece of land & one is quite green & the other a lovely blue.

We also went to a Maori entertainment in Rotorua, it was organized by the Methodist Mission + we saw the old Maori dances, heard their ancient + their modern songs. What a pity Mr Eastman can't be sensible like that. We left on Friday morning for Waitomo visiting Arapuni Falls + Power station on the way. We reached Waitomo in time for tea but could not see the cave until after dinner, then we were fitted with awful, heavy clumping boots which were not at all necessary + escorted to the Glow-worm cave. It is a wonderful cave, some of it we walked through but the part with the glowworms we had to go through in a boat, it was quite dark + the whole place was a mass of tiny lights, rather like a sky that was all "Mickey-way"; simply marvellous. It took an hour to go through + back again. Harry + I have both tried riding a horse since we have been at the farm, I'm very stiff as I rode yesterday + I should think Harry will be tomorrow.

We go back to Auckland the day after tomorrow + I suppose we shall have to think

seriously of returning to the Gilberts. Anyhow we have had a ripping holiday, this trip & the Dunedin one have quite made up for the hospital & the dentist.

With much love from

Honor.

1932/14

"Rannock"

Auckland. N.Z.

27th October, 1932.

Dearest Mother and Father,

When we got back from the south we stopped in Auckland for a week or two in order to do all our shopping and order our stores for the Gilberts. Then Lady Robertson and Joan took us for a tour of the north island in their car. We drove down to Wairakei the first day and arrived there just at dusk, having taken a look at Lake Taupo on the way. The Lake was covered in mist as it was a rainy day and so we only just caught glimpses of the high mountains on the other side. We passed through Hamilton, Cambridge, Atiamuri and Putaruru on our way. Hamilton is a lovely town with beautiful open streets and gardens and a very fine river running through all - it was the nicest town we've seen in New Zealand and a most progressive place.

There was scarcely anyone else at the hotel at

Waiakei. Joan, Honor and I went and bathed in one of the large hot baths there after dinner and, although it was quite cold outside, it was gorgeous in the pool. There are three thermal pools at Waiakei - one at about 95° and the others 90° - they are out in the open air in a wood. In the morning the other two went to the same pool and I tried the others. I liked the very hot one best though you had to get into it by degrees. You're forbidden to wear bathing dresses in the pools - a very sensible rule though strange at first.

Next day we drove to Lake Taupo in the morning and also saw the Atiamoa rapids and the Huka falls and in the afternoon we went to see the various boiling and mud pools, geysers etc. They were really quite a fine sight and I expect Honor has described them in her letter.

Then we drove to Rotoma and stayed at Brents and spent three days seeing the various sights.

On the first day we saw the six lakes and on the second the sites of the old pink and white terraces

and the big earthquakes. We also went to the village²⁾ of Whokarewarewa and saw all the boiling pools etc. as at Wanakei. I did not think much of Rotoua as its' very commercialized and every sight is exploited by someone. The place was full of tuffens although it was not the season and was not nearly so good as Wanakei which comparatively few people visit.

The best thing by far was a Maori concert which we were lucky enough to see. It was simply magnificent and I could have gone again and again. Even in Rotoua the theatre was packed and in some they'd be an immense success if they went to Europe.

From Rotoua we drove to Waitomo caves, stopping at Arapuni on the way to see the big new power station. We stayed a night at Waitomo to see the famous glow-worms which are really worth a visit - you go in a small boat through the subterranean channels and the millions of glow-worms

light up the whole place like stars. It's quite still inside as if you make a noise the glow-worms go out.

From Waitomo we went to Jacko's farm which is about 15 miles from Te Kuiti. Here we had several rides about the hills on the farm buses - Hiner has sent you a photograph of herself on a horse which is really not bad considering how impossible she is to take.

When we got back here we were told that the next boat was from Newcastle in New South Wales on the 20th November, as the "Elmbank" on the 25th from here was cancelled. However the Melbourne office sent Mr Ellis a wire to say that the "Antigone" would leave Westport about the 30th for Ocean and so, of course, we decided to go on her. Ever since then the ~~next~~ ~~has~~ ~~been~~ sailing date has been altered and now we expect it to go on the 1st. If that is so we shall leave for Wellington tomorrow, spend the night there and cross to Nelson and from

(3)

there motor down to Weather as there's no railway to
such a desolate spot. The "Antigone" is at present
unloading at Dunedin and will then go into dry dock
and then have a $2\frac{1}{2}$ days journey to Weather where
she'll load 1,000 tons of coal. It's a bar harbour so
goodness knows how long we'll be held up there.

Did I ever tell you how we paid a call on
Mr F. C. Christian on our way from Wellington to Auckland?
He's the author of two famous books on the Pacific -
"The Caroline Islands" and "Eastern Pacific lands" - and
stayed some time in Micronesia, in the Carolines, about
1899. as he's an authority on Pacific languages and
almost the only Englishman who has written on Micronesia
we thought we ought to do our duty and look him
up, so we took the early train from Wellington and
got off at Palmerston North, where he's librarian, and
found him just leaving the library. He spent the
evening with us and we talked for hours on Pacific
linguistics in front of a hotel fire. We found he
knew quite a bit of Gilbertese and was intensely

interesting, though he was not very well at the time and is getting decidedly old. He gave me a pile of manuscript notes on Pacific linguistics which I value very highly and has just written me a long letter containing what may prove valuable notes on the cultivation of vegetables in coral islands by lining the beds with tanned paper.

He was at Eten with Uncle Arthur and at Balliol with father and remembers both of them. I feel quite sorry for him as he is largely ignored by the present generation of anthropologists, chiefly however because his theories of linguistic diffusion are so wild. And yet there's no doubt he's a genius. You ought to get the library to procure his "Caroline Islands" and read it. We have referred to it several times in a forthcoming article of ours.

I don't know if Honor has told you that we have both been learning the Hawaiian steel guitar for some time now. We've always longed to be able to play the fascinating Hawaiian music, and

We've long considered the steel guitar the most beautiful of stringed instruments, as well as being ideally appropriate for the Pacific island life. We were fortunate indeed in finding that H. Peeluia Bichaw was staying in Auckland and he's been giving us lessons every day now for a month and sometimes twice a day. Bichaw is a Hawaiian and the best player in the Southern Hemisphere and an extraordinarily nice man. He has a European wife and several fine children. We're taking no gramophone records back this time but plenty of music and two guitars and as Bichaw seems to have taught us all the tricks he knows what we need now is practice.

I must stop now. The next letter will be from the Islands. I only hope that that brute Swinbourne will send us out to the Group and not keep us on ocean but I should not be at all surprised if he puts me in charge of the police there, since I'm no earthly use at a job like that and should hate it.

With love from
your devoted son, Harry.

1932/15

Westport.

Nov: 1st

1932

Dearest Lady Maude.

We arrived here yesterday in fear & trembling wondering if the ship had gone without us & found that she had only been in port a couple of hours! We went on board and saw our cabin which is quite a large one & I should think quite cool. The captain says they are sailing at about 11 a.m. to-day & it seems to be a nice calm day so I hope we shall have a pleasant beginning for our trip anyway. We crossed to Nelson in a tiny boat & it was so calm that she didn't seem to move at all & the forecast of Saturday was "choppy sea". The drive here from Nelson was marvellous, we came through the Buller Gorge, a hair raising road but wonderful scenery. For miles & miles the mountains were scarred with huge landslides which occurred during the earthquake of May, 1929. There must have been a fearsome noise & people living in the valleys must have felt dreadful as

the mountains threatened to bury them. Two jaegers & their owners & families were buried in a wee valley in Murchison, you would never know now that there had been a valley there, it is buried 600 ft deep. The gorge itself when you get glimpses of the river, far below, is lovely. In one place the road was cut out of solid rock, the river was about 300 ft below us, above us was an arch of rock & the driver told us that in 1926 the river rose 3 ft above the arch! It didn't look possible but I suppose it is.

We received a letter from Sir Walter last week, written just after all the children had gone & Snap had been amusing himself in the country! We shall soon be seeing Kousea I hope, I wonder if he will be very excited.

Will you please give each of the 5 children half a crown for Christmas from us? Harry, the silly chump, brought the wrong cheque book so we'll send a cheque when we get back. Joan, my cousin, quite took Harry under her wing, you know how jessed he gets if you try to hurry him, & if I wasn't about Joan always took him in hand & saw that he

didn't forget appointments etc. She was really very good to him while I was in hospital & he was getting over having his teeth out. We were very sorry to have to leave Auckland but it will be nice to be back in the islands again. A friend of Auntie's gave me a tin full of suitable plants wrapped in moss & also an orchid & a piece of bark. They all look healthy so far, it will be lovely if some of them grow.

I'm sure we are both ever so much better, I feel tons better anyway. Harry is his usual 10 st. 4 lbs. & everyone says he looks better, I'm still under 8 st. but looking fitter I'm sure. Harry took a snap of me at the farm & we had an enlargement made for you, I hope you will like it.

With heaps of love & all best wishes for Christmas & the New Year from

Love lovingly,
Honor.

1932/16

Ocean Island.

Nov: 11th 1932

Dearest Lady Maude,

I am afraid there is only time for a short note to let you know that we have arrived safely and that we are to stay here about four months. Fortunately Harry has not been given the Police Officer's job but that of Acting Secretary, Mr Leembruggen goes on leave in a week or two. The Methuens have gone & also Mr Bentley & Mr Clarke is in the group so we have an Acting Resident Commissioner, Acting Police Officer (one of the wireless men!) Acting Treasurer & Acting Secretary; the school master too is going on leave on the next ship.

We had a wonderful trip up, calm weather all the way & a still, calm day here. The ship was very comfortable, the food uninteresting but good & the officers & crew very nice. Such a mixture of both nationalities & dialects, I don't believe half the crew could properly understand the other half!

I don't think we shall mind Ocean Island
this time, we have such heaps to do in the
anthropological line. We are in the Leembuagan's
house which is quite nice + I'm hoping to
get both Ueia + Teikerawa over in about 3
weeks time when the ~~set~~ yacht returns from
the group.

Heaps of love to you ~~all~~ from us both.

Your loving

Honor

with heaps of love to
you all from us both.

Yours lovingly,

Honor

1932/17

Government Station.

Ocean Island.

Dec: 4th

Dearest Lady Maude,

I'm afraid there is very little news this mail, we have more or less settled into this house though we have not quite ~~un~~ finished unpacking. We think we are going to like it very much, it is a very nice position & M^{rs} Leembeuggen has a nice lot of hibiscus bushes round the house so we always have flowers. There are also flower beds in good condition & I have put in some zinnia seeds & hope to get a good show. Tomatoes too & probably lettuce we shall try as it seems probable we shall be here for quite 6 months. M^{rs} Leembeuggen is not leaving until the New Year; Major Swintouene was left in the lurch by everyone last time he acted R.C. & he is not going to let it happen again! Harry takes over the Court work from tomorrow he is also reading law as hard as he can & hopes to pass his final exam in a few months. It will be

lovely when he is free of examinations. He has been, as far as we know, confirmed as a D.O. from Nov: 16th & we have gone up to £500, a nice little jump. A new Cadet left England for Ocean Island on Nov: 18th, no one knows why he has been sent as we did not ask for him, nevertheless we are very glad as we are very short of men. At the present moment Armstrong is the only D.O. in the whole of the Gilbert Group & there is only an acting man in the Ellice. Here we have an acting R.C., acting Police Officer, acting School Teacher, & soon acting Secretary. The new man's name is MacDonald, I wonder if he is as Scotch as Macpherson! He is to join Harry in the Secretariat & as soon as he is able to carry on, about March or April I suppose, we are to return to the Group.

We found quite a budget of letters here from you & Sir Walter & at last heard all about the new house. It was excellent getting rid of the

Manor + the new house, + the stove, sound most luxurious. We should be home in 1935, in the summer I hope but probably not till the autumn; Harry says he will apply for leave in good time. We don't think it's wise to stay much over the two years, although the climate seems quite pleasant there is no doubt it pulls you down. At the moment we are both feeling very fit, I really do feel a new person + I think Harry does too. I have had to do quite a bit of cooking besides getting the house straight as I have not had Uria, only a local boy, + yet I do not feel tired. I'm resting every afternoon for at least 2 hours, Harry gets in about one hour, + it certainly pays. Your anthracite stove sounds marvellous, it seems to me to be just the thing for us! It uses so little fuel it should not be difficult to import it + the stoves we have here simply eat wood + make the kitchen dreadfully hot. Tomorrow Teikarawa + Uria, + Koura, arrive, we shall be delighted to see them again. As so often happens the Nimanua + an Australian ship arrive the same day, it is rather a

Aunt's address but she will forward it.

Froggall Rise, Froggall, London.

Froggall, London.

I enclose a card. 17.12.3.

The name in case you have forgotten.

nuisance as there will be Mr & Mrs Hard & their two boys to get away on the Tuiroa & the Clarkes & Compton coming in on Rimanoa. The Harolds are having lunch with us to enable them to pack up & I expect I shall have the Clarkes or Mr Compton for dinner.

One of Swinbourne's small boys fell off the billiard table just before we arrived & broke a small bone in his arm. It does not seem to be mending right so Loloma Swinbourne, who is in charge while her mother is in Sydney, has to take him to Naureu tomorrow for an X-ray. Fortunately the Naureu Chief will be coming to Ocean via Naureu & they will be able to return in a few days.

We are sending you a wee Chinese dish which will perhaps be useful for pins. I also enclose a cheque for the children's Christmas box, Geoff's wedding present & please will you have the Weekly Times sent us, I think the sub is 25/-. I think I asked you to get something for Geoff but I forgot to give you his address. We only know his

1932/18

Government Station.

Ocean Island.

Dec. 13th 1932

Dearest Lady Maude,

It is only about a week since the last mail went out so there is not really any news but we have had letters from you since I wrote. Did I tell you we had received the photos of the new house? It looks a huge place & we hope you ~~will~~ be there when we come home, we trust in 1935. I suppose Maudie will be back in South Africa by now, I really must write to her but although I seem to write lots of letters I don't get through half as many as I should. I am glad you enjoy the letters from the Group, I love writing when there is really something to tell you about; I'm afraid letters from Ocean Island will not be so interesting though we are going to make space for a few games here & hope the boys will come up. We are told that the Beem people never cease talking of their games! We are gradually clearing round the house but the bush was so close that it is going to take some time. We have found several rubbish heaps & literally dozens of empty bottles

within a few yards of the house, disgusting. I think Mrs Leembuggen must have liked the "shut-in" feeling, if so I shall not be very popular. We are hoping to get rid of mosquitoes by clearing away rubbish, it should surely help.

I should rather like to write to Mabel if you think she would like to hear from us but what does she wish to be addressed as? I have made a note of the address. I owe Muriel a letter which I will try to write for next mail. With the excitement of leaving ~~of~~ N.Z. & finishing shopping I wrote very few Christmas letters.

Koura is back again with us & seems very happy. Teikarawa has taken good care of him, he is very well & absolutely pampered. His honour has to be rinsed, after his bath, with half a bucket of water to which a large tablespoonful of scented coconut oil has been added! Teikarawa said it made him smell nice & it certainly improves his coat. To our surprise he, Koura, made no attempt to follow Teikarawa, I expected him to take a few days to get used to us.

Harry had a hard morning at court yesterday, of course, as soon as he took it on all sorts of odd cases were brought up; he says he doesn't

like the court work but I think he really finds it quite interesting though perhaps a bit harassing! He is rather like Mona you know, he gets all fussed & I can't help teasing him. The Major is rather amusing, he is always getting Harry up to help him to write letters, he is absolutely helpless Harry says. Last night I went to the pictures but Harry stayed at home to do some of his own work but along came Major Swinbourne & that was end of that. Harry is really tons better, he looks better & I know feels very fit. I feel gorgeously well but I have at least an hour's sleep every day & I believe I'm actually getting fatter but I don't believe Harry would whatever he did. We take the two dogs for a walk after tea most days & they are quite good friends except when Cease, in his youthful exuberance, forgets what a hefty creature he is & barges into poor little Kouza.

With heaps of love from us both.

Your loving
Honor

1932/20

Government Station,
Ocean Island.

Dec: 31st 1932

Dearest Lady Maude,

I'm afraid there is practically no news but a ship is off to New Zealand to-day & I hope a letter will get home fairly quickly that way. There

has not been much on in the way of festivities this Christmas, we go to the B.P.C. dance to night & on Monday Major Swinbourne is having a small dance & I think that is all.

M^r Leembruggen is still here & even now the Major will not say definitely that he may go on the next ship. Harry says if he doesn't go he will ask to be sent out to the Group, Swinbourne is really hopeless. He hasn't written a single letter for weeks & the drafts M^r Leembruggen & Harry send up he sits on for ages before signing. I suppose he can't help it but it's very trying.

I made Puddings & a Christmas cake & we had a duckling so we did very well. Brandy we had to get from the Medical Department, but we got it which was the main thing!

I wonder if we ever told you about M^r Clarke, the Treasurer, getting married last time he was on leave? Years ago he & the wife of Capt. Spain, a cadet,

decided they were made for one another & she forthwith
 left Spain & went home. Spain, being an R.C. refused to
 divorce her & so things went on for about 6 or 7 years I think,
 then last year, for some reason or other, Spain suddenly
 decided to divorce his wife & now she & Clarke are married
 & she is back here. Unfortunately we do not like
 her much, I have tried to but simply can't & Harry just
 says he can't stick her! While we were in D.Z. there
 were fearful rows here & Mrs Clarke cut Mrs Leembruggen, now
 she won't call on me until Mrs L. goes as we are in his house.
 She says Mrs L. was saying dreadful things about her, Mrs L.
 says other people were telling her about what his wife
 said & altogether it must have been most unpleasant.
 We went along to see the Clarks one evening & they
 talked of nothing but the different people in the
 service, a conversation I can't abide & we simply
 couldn't get them off it. Mrs L. we have always liked
 & get on with him very well but I have always heard
 that his wife had a nasty tongue. However we are
 keeping ourselves to ourselves & finding plenty to do.
 Harry of course, is always writing about something, & is
 now doing an article on the population of the Gilbert &
 Ellice Islands, covering a period from before the arrival
 of the Government in 1898, I think, to the present day.
 I am writing up some figures & hope to have the first

instalment ready for the March issue of the Polynesian Journal. Harry has written the introduction & they will of course, be published under both our names.

It is still as dry as a bone here & water very short. At the Residency they have only one very small tank left. We are lucky, having 9 feet in a very large cistern, but I suppose others will share it if they run out.

With lots of love from us both.

Yours lovingly,

Honor.