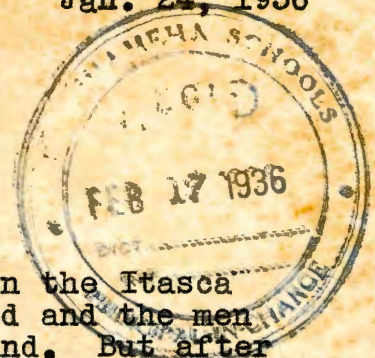


Mr. Mitchell

South Seas
Jan. 24, 1936

Dr. Homer F. Barnes
Principal in charge
Kamehameha Schools



Dear Dr. Barnes:

It was sure nice to hear from you when the Itasca called for us a few days ago. The surf was bad and the men had a difficult time trying to land on our island. But after hours of presistant effort they finally succeeded.

I am writing to inform you that Capt. Meyer is taking William Kaina and myself off the island. Herbert Hooper and Archie Kauahikaua are both fine and doing well. Upon our departure, Herbert Hooper was chosen to be in charge of the camp. I am confident that he will make good because he has been very energetic in all of his work.

After leaving Baker, the ship went to Howland and James Kamakaiwi, Killerny Opiopio, and Folinga Faufata were picked up. In comparison, the surf at Baker was worst than that at Howland, so we stayed at Howland only a few hours.

The ship is now one day from Swain Island. Last nite Capt. Meyer called the boys together to ask one of us to get off at Swain while the ship continued to Samoa. I realized that this would be the greatest chance of a lifetime, so I volunteered to get off. Opiopio is getting off too because he has already been to Samoa. We will remain on Swain until the Itasca leaves Samoa for Honolulu, then we will be picked up. We will probably remain on the Island for 18 days. During that time, we will be collecting specimen and data for the Bishop Museum.

Thus far the trip from Howland has been very fine. Some of the boys were seasick for a few days, but now everyone is well. We work on board ship every day either painting or helping the mess cooks set up the tables for meals.

After dropping Opiopio and me tomorrow, the ship will get to Samoa, which is only a few miles away. I know that the boys will have a grand time in Samoa, but I think that my stay on Swain will far supercede the fun that the boys will have at Samoa.

I have been thinking of the money that I've earned so far and I have made a defanite decision as to its security. I hope that you have been satisfied with the way I have been carrying on and feel that I have done the best that I could. Just the same, I want to thank you for giving me the chance to come on this expedition and I hope that I have not failed you. My best regards to you and the rest of the school.

Aloha Nui Loa

Abraham Piianaia
Abraham Piianaia

NDB