

87. Commander Clark (H.M.S. *Sappho*) to Rear-Admiral Lyonsa  
Report of visit of H.M.S. "Sappho" to Pitcairn Island,  
July 1882.

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Commander Clark  
(H.M.S. *Sappho*) to  
Rear-Admiral LyonsH.M.S. "Sappho," at Sea, lat. 24° 52' S., long. 131° 13' W.,  
3rd July 1882.

Sir,

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In pursuance of your sailing orders of the 29th May I have the honour to report to you that I arrived at Pitcairn Island in H.M. ship under my command on the 1st instant, and the weather being fine I anchored in Bounty Bay in 15 fathoms.c  
2. The various packages with which I was entrusted were duly delivered to Thursday October Christian, the chief magistrate, and safely landed in the island boats the same day.

3 July 1882

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3. The chief magistrate informed me that they had had on the island for some months the crew of the British ship "Acadia," which was wrecked on Ducie Island in June 1881, and out of their stay, there had arisen some troubles which he requested me to settle. The two cases which he wished me to investigate were that of one of the ship's crew who refused to leave the island unless compelled by force to do so, and that of the minister of the island, Simon Young, who had published the banns of marriage between this man (Arthur Knight) and Maria Young, after having been forbidden by the chief magistrate to do so. I attach to this letter a statement which he gave to me of the circumstances of the case, and a copy of which I understood he sent to you direct.d  
4. I propose now to give you the facts as far as I was able to arrive at them.e  
5. The crew of the "Acadia" landed on the island in June 1881, and the chief magistrate (Moses Young at that time) gave them leave to remain until an opportunity offered to take them to England or San Francisco, whichever place they wished to go to, consequently some remained on the island longer than others.e  
6. When they had been there about three months, one of them, Albert Volk, a native of Newport, wished to marry Mary Ann Young, a daughter of Simon Young, and settle on the island. A meeting of the heads of families was called to decide whether this should be allowed, and out of (I think) 14, only two voted against it being allowed, two for it, and two were absent, the remainder did not vote either way but were present. At any rate, it appears to have been tacitly agreed to by the majority, and they were married.f  
7. Shortly afterwards another man, Philip Coffin, an American, aged 44, wished to marry Mary Warren, aged 15, a grand-daughter of Thursday Christian, and also to remain on the island, and as the other one had been allowed to do so there appears to have been no objection raised to his marriage, which accordingly took place.g  
8. On the 1st of last January Thursday Christian became the chief magistrate, and in February Albert Knight, the carpenter of the "Acadia," wished to marry Maria Young, an orphan, aged 19, who lived with two other young unmarried women and in whose house he lodged. It appears that she had formerly been engaged to one of Christian's sons, but had broken it off shortly after becoming acquainted with the carpenter.

9. The chief magistrate then called together the heads of families to consult whether any more strangers should be allowed to settle on the island, and the Christian family being in the majority a law was passed that from that date no more were to be allowed to settle. No entry, however, was made in the book of laws on the subject.

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10. A few days afterwards, when the chief magistrate ordered him to leave by a passing ship, he refused to do so as the others had been allowed to marry and settle, and there was nothing against his character to prevent his being

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allowed to do the same. At the same time malicious reports were spread about reflecting on the girl's character, which are now acknowledged to be totally unfounded. It was now that Simon Young, sympathizing with Knight and the girl, published the banns when forbidden by the chief magistrate to do so.

11. After investigating the matter it appears to me to be perfectly plain that jealousy was at the bottom of the whole affair, and that the Christians had made use of their numerically strong majority, and their Father being chief magistrate, to pass the law of the 20th February, inflicting a great injustice on Albert Knight; but, in view of the very bitter feeling that had arisen on the subject, I concluded that it would be better for the peace of the island that he should leave, and I accordingly told him I would take him away in the "*Sappho*."

12. I then called all the heads of families together and told them what I intended doing, telling them at the same time that I considered they had behaved very unjustly towards Knight, but that I was taking him away for the general good and, I hoped, the peace of the island; and I then put it to them individually whether they wished the law forbidding strangers settling to hold good from now, and (with the exception of Volk, who intends taking his wife to England by the first opportunity, and who did not vote) they unanimously said that they did.

13. I accordingly wrote it in the book as the 12th law: "That from henceforth, July 2, 1882, no strangers are to be allowed to settle on the island," and made a note to the effect that this had been agreed to by all the heads of families called together by the chief magistrate in my presence, and in consequence of disputes which I had been called on to settle.

14. During my investigation there were some rather stormy scenes, in which the "lie direct" was given freely and accusations of immorality, &c. were bandied about. Into these I felt it my duty to inquire, and Thursday Christian acknowledged that it is a fact that his grand-daughter, Gertrude Warren, aged 15, had an illegitimate child a short time ago, having been guilty of immorality with two or three members of the community, also that this is not the first illegitimate birth by three or four, the first having occurred ten or twelve years ago. He also admitted that petty larceny has been very common of late years, and is increasing, but that hitherto they have failed to detect any of the thieves. In his own words, he said, "I am sorry to say it, but the island is not what it used to be, and I can testify that as far as envy, hatred, and malice, and all uncharitableness are concerned, they are no better than their neighbours."

15. The chief occupation of the young men of the island appears to be boarding passing vessels to get anything out of them they can. A good many of those passing (which apparently average from two to three a week) appear to be American, and having heard that the boats were in the habit of hoisting the American flag I asked the magistrate if there was one on the island, he said there was and it had been hoisted once in the boat "as a joke." I sent for it, and he tore it up in my presence, and promised that it should not be used any more.

16. These inquiries having occupied me all Saturday, the 1st instant, I remained till the following day to enable me to assemble the heads of families after their divine service on Sunday as before detailed, and as the weather was squally and unsettled I weighed and lay-to off the island for the night, anchoring again the following morning.

17. The general condition of the place appears to be prosperous, and their crops were reported to be ample for their wants. The number now on the island is 101, as against 96 at the time of the "*Thetis*" visit last year. The increase is by the two men of the "*Acadia*" settled on the island, two children (twins) born in wedlock, and one illegitimate birth. The number was 102 on my arrival, but I have taken one man away with me.

18. I examined the Register of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, which is very loosely kept, and find that, hitherto they have not been in the habit of recording the illegitimate births, at least the last one certainly was not. I requested the chief magistrate to see that they are more correctly kept in future.

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19. I have thought it better to report very fully in this letter, knowing that a request has been sent you to send a man-of-war to settle matters, and I hope that what I have done may meet with your approval.

20. I beg respectfully to submit to you that if Her Majesty's Government intends to take any further interest in the island, it would be best to send someone from home to govern it, a missionary governor if that is thought best, but, at any rate, someone; for it is quite plain to me that however well the former system of laws and magistrates may have answered in the days of their primitive innocence, it is quite unsuited to the present state of the place; where they are now divided into two sets, the Youngs and the Christians.

21. From conversation, which some of the officers had whilst on shore, I gathered that their fervent loyalty has also been much exaggerated, and that if the supplies from England were stopped they would be quite ready to hoist the United States or any other flag on the island.

22. It is quite certain that things are very different to what the well-wishers of the island in England, or elsewhere, imagine them to be, and I would suggest to them not to send any more books or tracts out until they are satisfied that they are welcome, as it is my impression that San Francisco literature is more to the taste of, at all events, the rising generation, and that the clothing that is sent is the only part they appreciate.

23. Of the three "Acadia's" men who remained on the island; Volk, who is going to leave, and Knight, who I have taken with me, were, from all I could learn, good examples of industry and steadiness whilst there, but I am much mistaken if the third (the American) does not prove a source of trouble hereafter.

24. All that I have stated here is what I have ascertained to be facts, but if one tittle of the stories I, and others, heard are true, my account is by no means too darkly coloured.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) BOUVERIE F. CLARK,  
Commander.

Rear-Admiral Algernon Lyons,  
Commander-in-Chief.  
&c. &c. &c.

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Commander Clark  
(H.M.S. *Sappho*) to  
Rear-Admiral Lyons

3 July 1882

Pitcairn Island, February 20th, 1882.

Thursday O. Christian as chief magistrate of Pitcairn Island consulted all the heads of families concerning strangers settling on the island, at which the majority stands thus: "That no man from henceforth is allowed."

After all were dismissed except himself with his councillor, &c., Albert Knight (a stranger) and Maria Young (of the island) were called for and questioned as the following describes:—

MAGISTRATE: I called you here to ask if you were engaged?

ALBERT KNIGHT: Who told you about such a thing?

MAGISTRATE: I've heard something about it.

ALBERT KNIGHT: We haven't had a thought about it.

MARIA YOUNG: That's false, indeed somebody knows enough about us.

ALBERT KNIGHT: I tell you if it must be so, you can't prevent it.

MAGISTRATE: I don't allow it.

ALBERT KNIGHT: Do you hear, if it must be so you can't stop it.

MAGISTRATE: I want to tell you beforehand that I don't allow strangers here settling before the next man-of-war comes.

Pitcairn Island, February 25.

Circumstances passed between Albert Knight and the chief magistrate.

A few days ago Albert Knight was told by the chief magistrate to leave the island. So when a ship was seen approaching the land he was sent for by the magistrate, who told him to get all his things ready in case the captain might be so kind as to give him a passage; but he plainly said,

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"I will not." At this the magistrate being vexed said, "You must go." He answered, "No man gets me off the island." On seeing his obstinate determination he was minded of being put before the captain on the next man-of-war, replied "I don't care a pinch of snuff for one of them," then turned away proudly to go, but was prevented. Who now must abide still awhile.

(Signed) THURSDAY O. CHRISTIAN,  
Chief Magistrate.  
(Signed) G. C. SELWYN,  
Councillor and Secretary.

Pitcairn Island, South Pacific Ocean, { Lat. 25° 4'.  
Long. 130° 9' W.

3 July 1882

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88. Report of Captain Doughty (H.M.S. *Constance*) to Rear-Admiral Lyons, including a copy of the Pitcairn Island Laws as at 19 March 1884

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*General. 2 mi. N.*

REPORT ON PITCAIRN ISLAND.

C.O.  
15547  
17 19 98

H.M.S. "Constance",  
(Lat: 0.46 S.  
At sea (Long: 136:54 W.  
31st March 1884.

No. 10.      Sir,

As stated in my Letter of Proceedings of 14th April 1884, I arrived off Pitcairn's Island in H.M.S. "Constance" on the morning of the 18th of March. Shortly after "heaving to" I was boarded by Benjamin Young, Chief Magistrate for the current year, James R. Mc Coy, Chief Magistrate for 1883, Thursday October Christian, Chief Magistrate for 1882, and several other

It appeared they had not seen the ship till she rounded Adam's Rock into Bounty Bay. When steam was ready, furling sails, and anchored in 17½ fathoms - sand.

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

3.      From the landing there is a narrow steep footworn path up the irregular cliffs of rock and earth amid bushes and ferns to the higher ground above, on which the cottages are built. The cottages, seventeen in number, are scattered about in some places two or three may stand near each other, most have outhouses for cooking and storing wood, agricultural implements etc. The Church and Schoolroom is a long wood style and rafter thatched building, seating for 90 people being partitioned off at East end for the Church with a Communion rail dividing off the "Minister" and harmonium from the congregation. The School portion of the building has seating sufficient for the entire present community - 104 - of all ages and both sexes - this building has five doors - three at side facing the sea - two on North side - there is a door

through from Schoolroom to Church.

Rear Admiral Lyons.  
Commander in Chief, Pacific.

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4. The

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Report of Captain Doughty (H.M.S. *Constance*) to Rear-Admiral Lyons, including a copy of the Pitcairn Island Laws as at 19 March 1884

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4. The place of "Minister" is filled by Simon Young, who, as far as he is able, takes the place of the Revd: G. Nobbs, now at Norfolk Island. Young seems a simple minded, honest intentioned, inoffensive man, well up in years, quiet in manner, evidently respected. He officiates as a "Clerk" administers the Sacrament, marries, christens, and buries as needs require. He and his eldest daughter, a single woman of 32, Rosaline Young, conduct and manage the School, "Gratis". She seems capable in the matter of control, has a pleasant face and a very happy manner, and yet a quiet self possession that made me remark her, and though so different in outward form, I was reminded by her of Miss Weston, of Naval Temperance Fame. She came on board the next day, with nearly the whole community, and seemed as pleasantly at ease with her friends forward, as aft. Being asked to play the harmonium, she soon attracted a good many with a fiddle or two to assist her. She has a quiet kindly dignity which drew and elicited the sympathies of her audience, who joined in with their voices. Her manner being like Miss Weston, I found had been remarked by others. I have rather mentioned her in particular, as I shall James R. Mc Coy, because they seemed to me two distinctive and superior characters in the Community. Her mother was just married when I was here in the "Portland" and is now a remarkable young looking, active, quick witted woman of 55, and wife of Simon Young the Minister. She went through on her finger ends all the Officers and Midshipmen of the "Portland" "Daphne", "Dido" and "Amphitrite", who visited the Island about that time. James Russel Mc Coy has much more of the Englishman in his features, colour, manner, and tone of thought than any of the other men now on this Island of the original stock. It was under his administration that the School and Church were built. He is business like, and I hear  
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made them work , setting example himself, but they don't like it. In talking with him, he said "I cannot persuade them it is not sufficient that we should be content to only just do as much work as will keep our cottages together, and produce sufficiency of food". He has been to England - the Captain of a Merchant ship that had called several times at last persuaded him to accompany him. He appears to have been very pleasantly taken notice of by several people in good social position while there, and to have been very favourably impressed. The uncertainty and cold of our climate in no way having sealed up his power of taking notice and appreciating the vastness of London, and the intense business of everybody, whether at Liverpool, where he had spent the most of his time with the friend that took him home, or in London, he seems to have been much impressed with our enormous capacity for work. He spoke very sensibly of their own position "that it was folly to expect that the English Government could be expected to support them, or again go to the expense of transporting them should their Island be again overstocked". He seems to think it was great folly - his own word was ingratitude - returning to Pitcairn, after all the expense the Crown had been put to in clearing out Norfolk Island, leaving them the buildings, roads, and 50 acres of land apiece - he said "I was young and simple, came back here with my parents".

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

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6. While Mc Coy was in England, the "Acadia" of Liverpool was wrecked on Ducie Island, a coral reef 190 miles to the

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Eastward of Pitcairn - the crew from which landed at Pitcairn June 1881. By passing vessels this crew were sent away, except two men, Albert J. Nolk, who married Mary Ann Young and Philip Coffin who married Mary Florence Warren, and allowed to remain on the Island.

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

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

8. Pitcairn is not such an unvisited isolated island  
as it was. Several ships have been lost lately on Ducie,  
Elizabeth, and Oeno islands. Their crews have made for  
Pitcairn in the first instance, and stayed longer or shorter  
periods. The "Cornwallis" was wrecked on Pitcairn in 1875,  
and the crew were on the island some weeks before getting  
away, the crew of the "Candish" lost at "Enoe" latter end of  
same year were 52 days before they all got away from Pitcairn,  
the "Allen Gowie" (?) crew, wrecked on Elizabeth in 1877,  
were on their way for Pitcairn when they were picked up by a  
passing vessel, and the crew of the "Acadia", wrecked in May  
1881 on Ducie, as before stated, came here. The average of  
calls here of late years would appear to be about one ship  
in three weeks. Formerly the whalers resorted here, but they  
tell me they are seldom seen or heard of now. Of the two men  
Volk and Coffin, seamen of the "Acadia", Volk appears and is  
reported of, as a quiet inoffensive young man, and he looks

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it. Coffin is a native of Nantucket, Mass. U.S. and looks over 45: Mary Jane Warren his wife is 16. Her mother married Samuel Warren a native of New Providence, Rhoda Isle, when they were at Norfolk Island. They came to Pitcairn and he died 13th November 1877, aged 38. The widow has three male and six female children living with her. Coffin tells me he hopes to spend the rest of his life at Pitcairn. I do not think he is by any means a desirable character. His presence there is a mistake. He with his wife should be sent off to Gambia or one of the other islands, but he won't go if he can avoid it, the girl has her share of the family property and that she by custom takes when married, will grow there enough to live on; if he goes elsewhere, he will have to work, but he is likely to cause trouble at Pitcairn.

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

10. In speaking of this people, I feel that great injustice may be done by drawing comparisons between the impressions retained of a visit made during the impressible days of youth, and the cooler judgment of to-day. Again one is very liable to be unfavourably impressed by the ill made slop clothing and dirty finery clothes sent them by well meaning friends at home. When I had last seen them, some were wearing blue skirts and white jackets, others the graceful white tappa dress of Otahaita, and for their heads a wreath of "red everlastings"; now we see pork-pie hats, tawdry ribbons, and brass, glass, and steel ornaments. These are

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a but outward signs, and I suppose it would be as impossible  
for these people to go back to the graceful dress of "Oberea"  
b and "Pomare" as for ourselves to go back to the dress of  
the past. But they do appear to me, also, to have lost much  
of the activity of the past-their houses do not seem so clean-  
the gardens are now ill kept-nothing looks trim or in order,  
c the pleasant little open spaces and tidy kept places have  
disappeared, and their mountain paths as far as I saw, even  
those about the settlement and between the cottages are not  
in a creditable state: in short, the gardens, settlement and  
paths all look much neglected, and I feel convinced I am doing  
d them no injustice when I say they do not keep their island  
in the order, or turn its great capabilities to the advantage  
their parents and grandparents did. Mr Nobbs was an Englishman  
and what is more a Seaman, and one of <sup>very</sup> varied experience,  
e having been an Officer both in the Royal Navy, and under  
Lord Cochrane in Chili, such training taught him what could  
be done - what ought to be done - and how to set people to  
work to do it. What these people want is an Englishman in  
love with their cause, over them. One of their own people  
f has not the independence for exercising sufficient authority  
over them. I took it upon myself to tell the Chief Magistrate  
and McCoy that they must remember they claim English descent,  
they fly the English Flag, and speak the English tongue-  
g (though I hear a native language is being taught them in  
their school at Norfolk Island, to supersede English: if so  
they will probably descend to the level of its civilisation  
and ideas - this may in part account for the retrograde move-  
ment among those who have returned to this island) that they  
must not be content to let nature take its course and them-  
selves be idle - that they must show themselves worthy of  
h that descent and put their settlement in order. Even John  
Adam's grave is so ill kept, that were it not for the head-

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headstone, I should not have observed it among the bushes.

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

12. The enclosed list of rules copied from their Register Book are a very rudimentary code and oddly enough nothing definite as to fine or punishments. No.9 is scratched out, it is not very clear what was intended, perhaps No.19 has something to do with the same train of thought.

13. Whether the people are really contented and happy would require some little stay among them to determine - apparently they are happy in a quiet sort of way, but they have not the light-hearted joyousness of the past - the women did not run out of their houses to welcome us, or the children run about with excitement and offer flowers and fruit - the tone of reception was staid and commonplace. The majority of females over males has doubtless a depressing effect and mist in spite of all other of nature's blessings, tinge the temperament with sadness - numerically there are only 6 more females than males, but the numbers on the male side are made up by children who can never grow up to be husbands to the 15 or more marriageable single women. With education and knowledge will come a sense of the unsatisfactoriness of an ideal Arcadian life - human nature must deteriorate when there is no stimulus for work - savages always deteriorate when they give up fighting - civilised races have fortunately stimulus for exertion suited to peaceable times, and so advance; these people are civilised but have no stimulus for exertion, no ambition, and the impression made on ~~me~~ is that they have gone back in the scale of human training, rather than forward. In the days of their ignorance and simplicity, tappa dresses and red wreaths, they were proud of themselves and worked to

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show themselves, their houses and their island off to the best advantages: now they know themselves to be as the Americans express it "behind time"- hopelessly, and are contented to drift on.

14. I have no reason for supposing they have departed from the laws of that adhesion to propriety <sup>with</sup> ~~to~~ which they have ever been accredited.

15. What they require to save them from sinking into self-neglect and sloth is some one who will enforce order-tidiness, repair of public roads etc. in short, turn the rock into a Coast Guard Station, with a Chief Boatman-in-Charge, it would be a far pleasanter command than Ascension, giving him very general and open orders for several years: till the people were accustomed to work and saw the beauty that results from labour and order - With the Captain of a Queen's Ship their "Highest Appeal" as it is now in fact. See "Power of the "Magistrate".

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

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

and

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Rear-Admiral Lyons,  
including a copy of  
the Pitcairn Island  
Laws as at  
19 March 1884

31 March 1884

and returned them when done with".

*Paper*

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

*b. 7*

19. Had there been any genius or proper ambition among them, they would have understood enough from Albert Knight and the work he left behind him to have completed the hand loom in some sort of workable form, and the women should have been started spinning yarn for its work, or preparing the cotton and thread they have, to experimentalise with, but nothing is done or will be as far as I can make out unless Knight return to complete what he has commenced. No, as I have before stated, I believe the only hope of staying the downfall of these Islanders in their home, would be to put them under an English Governor of some sort or other, and none by training would be better fitted than a Man-of-Wars man - an Officer or Warrant Officer - one without home ties

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Report of Captain  
Doughty (H.M.S.  
*Constance*) to  
Rear-Admiral Lyons,  
including a copy of  
the Pitcairn Island  
Laws as at  
19 March 1884

other than an able wife, prepared and willing to make this  
really pleasant island their home - and its advancement, his  
(21) line duty and obligation - and there are lots such.

I have etc.

(Sd) F. Proby Doughty.

C A P T A I N .

31 March 1884

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Report of Captain Doughty (H.M.S. Constance) to Rear-Admiral Lyons, including a copy of the Pitcairn Island Laws as at 19 March 1884

31 March 1884

Copy of a Copy.

(Signed) Proby Doughty,

CAPTAIN, 19 - 3 - 1884.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF PITCAIRN ISLAND.

FORM OF OATH.

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

POWER OF THE MAGISTRATE.

The Magistrate is to preside on all public occasions, and if any case should be brought to his notice he is to hear both sides of the question, and to decide and pass judgment accordingly, and should his judgment be objected against, he is to call his Councillors to his assistance, and should their decision be objected to, he is to call a jury of heads of families to whose decision the parties are to abide until the arrival of the first British Ship-of-War, to whose Commander the case must be submitted, and from whose decision there is no appeal. Also the authority of enacting laws are invested into his hands, and to see all laws properly supported, and all fines duly executed, and to summon others to assist him in enforcing his authority. Also he can punish in trivial matters of all description, when done or tend to evil, at his will.

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In regard to Votes.

S U F F R A G E .

Male and female at the age of twenty-one (21) and upwards.  
No one should be elected as Chief Magistrate under the age  
of thirty (30).

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

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

Laws and Regulations.

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

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

3rd. Anyone being detected of using profane language must be sub-  
mitted to such a fine as the Magistrate (or authority) thinks  
fit to impose, one half of the fine goes to the informant.  
~~should there be one.~~

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

5th. Any person in a quarrel or passion striking his opponent

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Report of Captain  
Doughty (H.M.S.  
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Rear-Admiral Lyons,  
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Report of Captain  
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- with the fist or any other weapon, must submit himself to whatever fine the authorities think fit to impose, and should the blow be returned (save in the case of self defence) they are to be submitted to the same fine.
- 6th. Any person insulting the Magistrate must be punished.
- 7th. No person or persons are to call in question any preceding case which has passed the investigation of the Magistrate and his Councillors to prevent the cause of justice. Anyone so offending is amenable to such a penalty as the authority might impose.
- 8th. No two persons of different sex are permitted to lie in bed or have any such unlawful connection, but must be tried and punished.
- 9th. Should any person at the age of 14 and upwards bring any case before the Magistrate gotten from a person under the age of 14 must be punished.
- 10th. Whoever is convicted of stealing is to be fined and the stolen property made good: one half of the fine goes to the informant.
- 11th. No person or persons are to bring cocconut or cocoanuts from T' othe'side or any part of the Island, without their being accompanied by one of the authorities or Churchwardens.
- 12th. Any person raising false report against his neighbour for the sake of jealousy ~~guarding~~ or revenge, or anything by which he would be injured, must be punished.
- 13th. Should any dog go out by himself or stray away from his master be found chasing sheep in any part of the Island where they are kept, must be killed for the first offence.
- 14th. Should any dog be seen chasing goats or going by himself inside of the boundary line given for goats may be killed on the spot and should the dog chasing goats, escape, must yet be killed for the first offence.
- 15th. In respect to fowls:-

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Report of Captain  
Doughty (H.M.S.  
Constance) to  
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Should any dog be found killing fowls or eating eggs is to be killed for the first offence.

16th *Case 12*  
No person or persons are to kill any cat unless doing him damage, if any one be found so doing, shall be punished by having his dog taken from him and be killed, and should the person have no dog, he shall be punished by the Magistrate. Should a dog go out with his Master and fall in with a cat and chase him, and the owner of the dog make all effort to save the cat, this will save <sup>his</sup> dog, though the cat die afterwards, but should no effort be made to save the cat, the dog must be confined for the first offence, and be killed for the second.

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

18th No person or persons are allowed to pay gratis without laying themselves open to such a fine as the authorities may think fit to impose.

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

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

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

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

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

These rules not signed.

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Report of Captain  
Doughty (H.M.S.  
Constance) to  
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12th.

The following order was pasted in:-

That from henceforth (July 2nd 1882) no more strangers are  
allowed to settle on the island.

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

(Signed) Bouverie F. Clark.

Commander - H. M. S. "Sappho".

July 2nd 1882.

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DECLARATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND THE  
GERMAN EMPIRE RELATING TO THE RECIPROCAL FREEDOM OF TRADE AND  
COMMERCE IN THE BRITISH AND GERMAN POSSESSIONS AND PROTECTORATES  
IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC. - Signed at Berlin, April 10 1886. \*

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Transcript of  
Declaration by  
Governments of  
Great Britain and  
Germany

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The Government of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Government of His Majesty the German Emperor, having resolved to guarantee to each other, so soon as the British and German spheres of influence in the Western Pacific have been demarcated, reciprocal freedom of trade and commerce in their possessions and protectorates within the limits specified in the present Declaration, the undersigned, Sir Edward Baldwin Malet, Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; and Count Herbert Bismarck, His Imperial Majesty's Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, having been duly empowered to that effect, have agreed, on behalf of their respective Governments, to make the following Declaration:

10 April 1886

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Article 1

1. For the purpose of this Declaration the expression "Western Pacific" means that part of the Pacific Ocean lying between the 15th parallel of north latitude and the 30th parallel of south latitude, and between the 165th meridian of longitude west and the 130th meridian of longitude east of Greenwich.

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2. The Government of Her Britannic Majesty and the Government of His Majesty the Emperor agree that the subjects of either State shall be free to resort to all the possessions or protectorates of the other State in the Western Pacific, and to settle there, and to acquire and to hold all kinds of property, and to engage in all descriptions of trade and professions, and agricultural and industrial undertakings, subject to the same conditions and laws, and enjoying the same religious freedom and the same protection and privileges, as the subjects of the sovereign or protecting State.

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3. In all the British and German possessions and protectorates in the Western Pacific the ships of both States shall in all respects reciprocally enjoy equal treatment as well as most-favoured-nation treatment, and merchandize of whatever origin imported by the subjects of either State, under whatever flag, shall not be liable to any other or higher duties than that imported by the subjects of the other State or of any third Power.

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4. All disputed claims to land alleged to have been acquired by a British subject in a German possession or protectorate, or by a German subject in a British possession or protectorate, prior to the proclamation of sovereignty or of protectorate by either of the two Governments, shall be examined and decided by a mixed commission, to be nominated for that purpose by the two Governments.

The claim may, however, be settled by the local authority alone, if the claimant to the land makes formal application to that effect.

5. Both Governments engage not to establish any penal settlements in, or to transport convicts to, the Western Pacific.

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6. In this Declaration the words "possessions and protectorates in the Western Pacific" shall not include the colonies which now have fully constituted governments and legislatures.

The present Declaration shall take effect from the date of its signature.

DECLARED AND SIGNED, in duplicate, at Berlin, this 10th day of April, 1886.

[Signed:] EDWARD B MALET

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[Signed:] GRAF BISMARCK

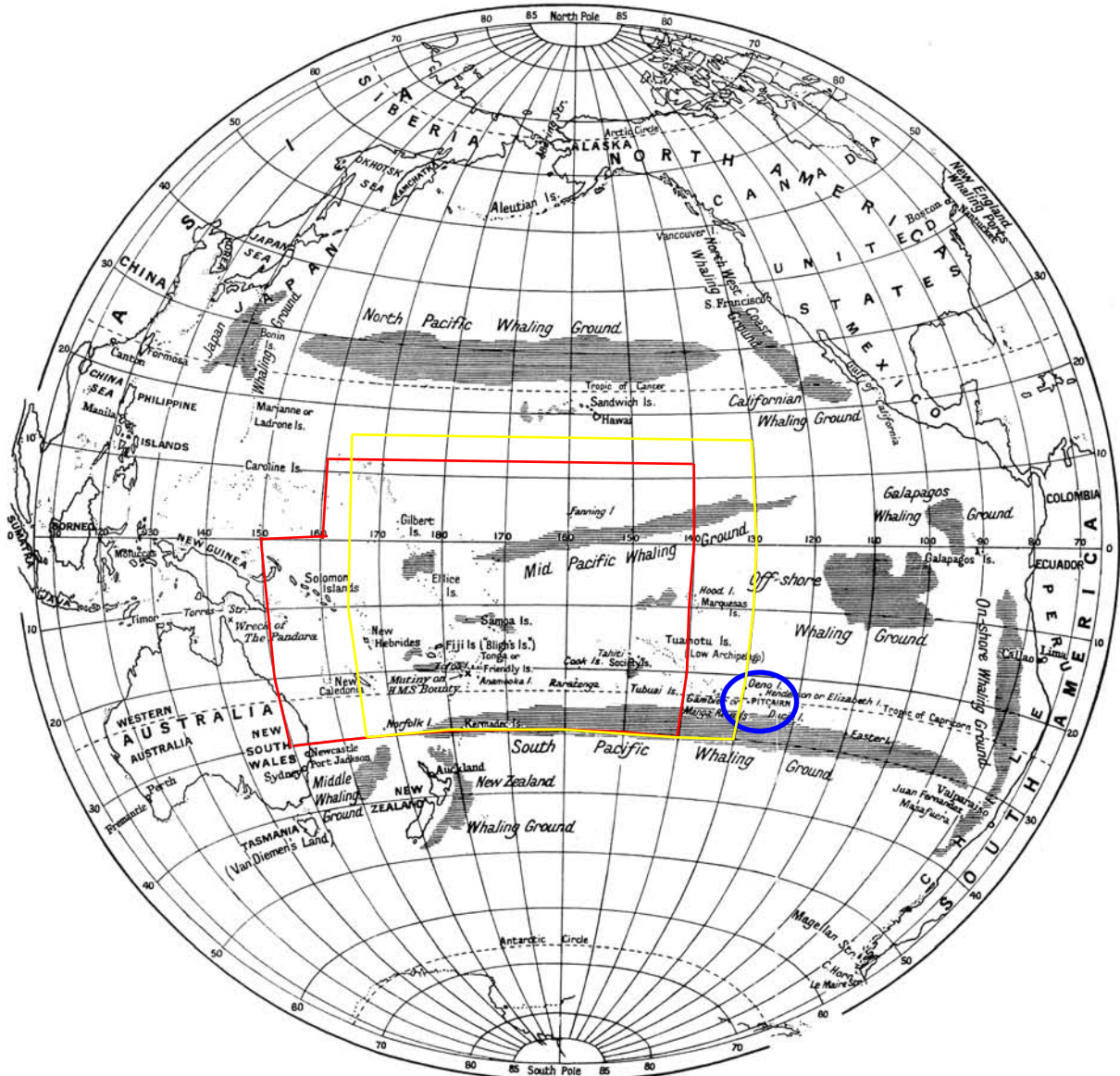
\* Signed also in the German language

90. Map of Pacific Ocean

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Map of Pacific Ocean

Chart to illustrate the story of Pitcairn Island based by permission on a map prepared for the Royal Geographical Society by courtesy of the Society and of Sir Everard im Thurn



The whale-fishery grounds of the Pacific have been indicated with reference to Appendix II

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