

Our Foreign Missions.

"Mackenzie, of Erakor, Efate, was married last week," writes Robertson of Erromanga, under date 6th Feb., "to a very superior lady of Bathurst, New South Wales, a Miss Roberts. She is in every way a most suitable person for the high and noble work to which she is going."

The secretary of the W. F. M. S. of Paris Presbytery reported, at their 11th annual meeting, held in St. Paul's Church, Ingersoll, Feb. 13, that the 19 auxiliaries and 14 mission bands of that presbytery, sent last year to the Regina Indian School, clothing to the weight of 2,750 lbs, and valued at \$1,100.83. Nearly a ton and a-half of clothing! There are some warm hearts in Paris Presbytery, and there will be some warm bodies on the prairies, in spite of the cold.

How to help Dr. Robertson puts a great **Foreign Missions.** truth very tersely when he says that "the very best way to help Foreign Missions is to establish Home Missions." Among the instances which he cites in support of it is the following,—viz: That in our own Church twenty thousand dollars are now given annually for Foreign Missions by congregations that were founded as Home Mission Stations within the last twenty years. Here is a fact to ponder.

Montreal The fourteenth annual meeting of **W. M. S.** the Womans' Missionary Society of the Montreal Presbytery, on March 3rd, was a most successful one. Large and deeply interested gatherings were features of an occasion which ended pleasantly with a social tea, furnished by the good ladies of St. Paul's, in which the Presbytery, by invitation, joined. The society, which supports a lady missionary in Honan, carries on a three-fold work—Home, French, and Foreign. It has 25 auxiliaries, and raised last year \$2,626.

A Novel Entertainment. The desire for "some new thing" was gratified in the S. S. Room of St. Paul's Ch. Montreal, not long since. It should have been mentioned in a previous issue but was overlooked. It was the Chinese New Year season, and the Celestials, to show their gratitude for the care that is taken in teaching them, gave an entertainment to their teachers and friends. There were about 150 of the Chinese present, and several hundred guests.

The programme was largely by themselves, and consisted in the singing of hymns, one perhaps leading, the others joining in chorus, or again one would read a passage of Scripture. The whole was intensely interesting, showing the progress which many of them are making. This part of the entertainment closed with selections by a Chinese orchestra. It was ear splitting, but not unmusical and was most heartily enjoyed. Then followed refreshments; dainties, daintily served, as well as provided, by the Chinese. It was good to hear them joining in our familiar hymns, some of them with heart as well as voice.

FRANCE IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.

FRANCE has long coveted the New Hebrides group, to add it to their penal settlement in the neighboring group of New Caledonia; but a treaty with Great Britain, by which the N. H. is to remain neutral, has thus far stood in the way. Seven or eight years ago the French landed some troops, but protests from Britain and Australia compelled them to withdraw. The same treaty prevents Britain acceding to the request of some of the Islands and annexing the group. The only possession open to either power is that of commercial supremacy, which would soon be, practically, ownership, and towards that they have been directing their attention.

A few years ago, when the Mission had no vessel, and the French were working for commercial supremacy, there was formed the Australian New Hebrides Company, mostly wealthy Presbyterians, who for the sake of preserving British supremacy, and thus preserving the Mission, offered to establish steam communication with the group, if, to help pay expenses, they were given the carrying trade of the Mission, to an amount not less than £1500 (\$7500) per annum, about the annual cost of the old Dayspring. For four years this plan has been operated; a growing, though not yet a paying, traffic, established; British Commercial supremacy more assured; and with it the safety of the Mission; while the monthly service has given great satisfaction.

If the Mission now withdraws its subsidy and puts on a vessel of its own, the Australian N. H. Co. may withdraw, and the results be ill.

The following is from the *Star*, a leading Australian daily. After some account of the Mission and the new vessel, it goes on to say:—

"The broader question to be considered by Australians, as a great Colonial State, is the effect that is likely to follow from the exclusion of the British merchant flag from the New Hebrides, which must follow as a matter of course, if the missionaries cut into the bulk of the trade of the group.

"Some time ago, when it became known that the missionaries intended running a steam yacht to the group to conduct their own trade, the French Government at once authorized a French steamer to be put on the line from Sydney, and, of course, paid for the work.

"In the course of interviews this morning with several influential gentlemen intimately connected with the Sydney-New Hebrides question, the unanimous opinion expressed was that the yacht is a great mistake, that she is totally unfitted for the purpose, and further, that by the withdrawal of the steamship now conducting the service, the French will obtain all that they require, and that is, the complete domination of the trade of the group, and consequently, annexation under the tri-colour will shortly be made a national demand.

"The French Government is furthermore anxious to extend its penal system from New Caledonia, in the opinion of the gentlemen whom our representative interviewed, and the withdrawal of the British merchant flag from the group will be the signal for converting the New Hebrides into a French penal settlement."