

Our Foreign Missions.

From Efate. Under date Sept. 8, Rev. J. W. Mackenzie writes to Mr. Morrison of Halifax. He says, "The work at Mele continues to prosper and quite a number have now joined us." This is the Island off Efate, that so long held out against the Gospel, and which for twenty years was a burden of the prayers of the good missionary and his wife. A few months ago their prayers were answered, while they were away in Australia on furlough, and their joy when they returned and found the state of matters, was as the joy of harvest. Poor Mrs. Mackenzie was not permitted long to enjoy the ingathering, but it has gone on. Mr. Mackenzie writes, "I am still very lonely, but am expecting my eldest daughter to come and stay with me. She will not only be company for me, but assist me in the work." Miss Mackenzie is a young woman, about twenty one years of age. She has studied in Australia and is by profession a trained nurse, but is in the meantime giving up all the advantages of life in Sydney to share with her father the loneliness and work in Efate. Noble girl! Worthy daughter of worthy parentage.

Erromanga. Our Erromanga missionary, Mr. Robertson, writing from Sydney, mentions in a postscript to a private letter, that his son Gordon, who has been attending college in Australia "has just passed his senior examination, and as dux of the college, gets a gold medal, and £15 sterling." Where the missionaries are compelled to part with their children at the early age of five and six years, to keep them from learning bad habits from native children, and to send them away among strangers, what a cause of thankfulness it must be to them to see these children, the burden of so many prayers, and all the more because absent, apply themselves so faithfully to work, and do so well. The burden of parting, and living away from them, is sore, but how rich the compensation in the instances mentioned in this issue.

Disabled Missionaries. The health of our own three missionaries and their wives in the New Hebrides has been in marked contrast to that of some of the laborers. The missionaries' wives have felt the effects of climate and work more than the men have done, but even in weakness have toiled bravely on. The missionaries of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria have had a different experience. Rev. H. A. Robertson, in a private note, writes, 'Revs. Dr. Paton, and Messrs. D. MacDonald, A. H. MacDonald, Leggat, and F. Paton, are supported by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. Rev. Dr. Paton has not been a missionary in our group since 1880, or for thirteen years. Rev. A. H. MacDonald and Rev. Fred. Paton are leaving, broken down in health

after only three and one years respectively. Rev. Mr. Morton has left for the same reason, while your missionaries, McKenzie, Annand, and Robertson, and their wives, have, until now, been permitted to labor continuously for twenty two years." In their long continued work as well as in the success that has attended it we have abundant cause for thankfulness.

Death of Dr. Steele. Dr. Steele of Sydney, Australia, who has been for so long very closely associated with the New Hebrides mission, acting as agent in Sydney for our church for many years, passed to his rest on the 13th of October. Many will remember his visit to this country, and to our General Assembly a few years ago. His book on the New Hebrides mission gives, up to the time it was written, a very full and complete account of the work in that group.

Generous Gifts. The debt on the Foreign Mission Fund, Eastern Section, was reported on the 30th of April last, as \$9,466.54. Since then, special collections in connection with Dr. Paton's visit amounted to a little over \$2,000; Rev. E. Smith secured in C. B. about \$500; the W. F. M. Soc. gave \$500; and some \$500 in addition have come in; reducing the debt to about \$5,500. As the Jubilee of our Foreign Mission work will be reached next summer the Committee is most anxious to have the debt removed by that time, for it would be a most unfitting thing to celebrate a Jubilee with a burden of debt on the Fund, after all that a kind Providence has permitted us to do in these fifty years. The debt was contracted in work that was absolutely necessary to save our work in Trinidad, and it not only saved it, but opened the way for a much more effective on carrying of that work. It has yielded a goodly return.

Two New Glasgow congregations, United Church and James Church, have opened another stage of the debt paying campaign, by voting, the former \$250, the latter \$100, for that purpose, besides the very liberal contributions amounting to \$500, which with the other two churches, they gave in connection with Dr. Paton's visit. At the annual meetings, in this holiday time, let Christmas and New Year's gifts for this purpose come from congregations and individuals as they may be able. Let wealthier members of the Church make a special contribution for it, and one more obstacle to progress will be in the past. There are some who could give fifty or a hundred dollars out of their abundance, and it would interfere in no way either with their comfort, nor their giving to other objects, and it would bring to themselves the blessing of a larger, more Christ like heart. There are men; who are already doing what they can. Many are straitened for food and clothing. God only asks in proportion as He gives. But He wants that.