

a change occurs, it is quite possible that at no distant day Highland parishes may have to stand empty for want of ministers to fill their pulpits. This is a danger not peculiar to the Church of Scotland. It is also felt by the Free Church who however are taking very wise precautions to prevent such a result.

The Ladies Association of the Church of Scotland is—now that by the passing of the Education Act most of the schools supported by the association had to be given up—assisting young men in their education for the ministry. Thirty seven young men are thus receiving aid—and are eligible for a bursary of £18 a year on entering college.

An appeal is also made on behalf of the Fund for aged and infirm ministers. In no country are the clergy better treated than in Scotland.

LETTER FROM THE REV. R. H. ROBERTSON, ERROMANGA.—Mr. Robertson, has sent a long letter to the Rev. A. W. Herdman, late convener of the Foreign Mission Scheme of this Presbytery, giving a full and minute account of his arduous labours on the Island of Erromanga. Mr. Herdman forwarded the letter to us and we now publish the following extracts for the information of our readers.

"I wish to thank in a very special manner the Presbytery of Pictou for their most liberal grant of \$115.00, towards christianizing the heathen in my field. Will you convey my best thanks to the Presbytery and through the medium of your RECORD to the congregations included in said Presbytery for their acquiescence in the manner in which I expended the £27 sterling which they so generously sent me last year. (We believe Mr. R. bought a boat for mission purposes with the money. *Ed. RECORD*) At our Synod which met on this island in June last I mentioned to the brethren that I had received this sum of \$115.00 from the Pictou (Kirk) Presbytery. The Synod recommended me to spend it on

Erromanga where there are still many heathen. I shall do so.

As to the very large share of the work that always falls to the Missionary himself (it matters not how many teachers he may have or who they are, or upon which island he may be stationed), for this large Island in the present stage of the work, I would have work for two bodies if I had so many and as the mind so depends upon the state of the body, I would require a frame of iron to stand the constant strain that is made upon the mind here. But the Lord has been strengthening me in body and mind, for his work here these seven years past. I suppose you will be surprised when I tell you that on these islands where Fever and Ague prevails to such a large extent, I have not had the slightest attack of it for more than five years, and only once in seven years, namely in April and May 1874, and further that I have never been laid up for a single hour since our arrival on this Island in June 1872 with the single exceptions stated above when I had fever."

Referring to the prospect of the continuance of the grant from this church Mr. Robertson suggests that it be devoted to opening up a new island. "I think if I had a district on some entirely heathen island like Apia in the northern part of this group, to work with say half a dozen Erromangan young men as teachers, and if I could be with them myself four months in each year, that is four months during the sailing season of the "Day-spring," or from July to November, that we could do a good deal towards opening up such an island to the gospel, that the entire change of scene and natives would give variety to the work, and thereby be beneficial to Mrs. Robertson and myself, and the work moreover not go back on our own Island in so short a space of time, and that the natives here being without us for four months at a time, would most likely appreciate our labors all the more when we should return to them.

We have much cause for gratitude to God for the measure of health He has granted to Mrs. Robertson, our three children and myself during the past summer and for His protective care over us, keeping us from all harm, and