

ERROMANGA.

The next station we visited was that at Dillon's Bay, Erromanga, now under the charge of Rev. H. A. Robertson. We were much gratified with the general aspect of affairs here. Mr. Robertson has built a neat and substantial cottage in a healthy situation, Mr. McNair's house having been converted into store-rooms. We were glad, also, to find that the natives appeared so friendly to Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, and our sincere prayer is that they may both receive faith and patience to persevere in the work on which they seem so hopefully to have entered; and, we trust, that the Erromangans will stand fast by the missionary for the sake of the message and his Master, and not on account of those perishable goods of which natives on all these islands are so extremely avaricious, and which Mr. Robertson has hitherto found it necessary to dispense among his parishioners, at Dillon's Bay, with such a liberal hand.

Erromanga is supposed to contain a population of about 2000 souls, but traders are making rapid progress in the work of peopling the island.

We had the mournful privilege of visiting the spot where the blood of the Rev. G. N. Gordon and his noble, heroic wife was shed by the cruel hands of the savage. We also saw their graves, and that of Mr. MacNair, as true a martyr for the truth of Jesus as any who ever fell by the hands of violence, although he died in his bed.

There are 13 church members at Dillon's Bay, 9 of whom are males, and 4 females. The number attending worship is 70, 30 of whom are Cook's Bay people, who, also, have recently been applying for another missionary. The whole of Erromanga is certainly too large a field for one missionary, and it is very desirable that Mr. Robertson should have an associate labourer of the right stamp, as soon as possible.

FATE, PANGO BAY—MR. ANNAND'S SETTLEMENT.

After a passage of about twelve hours from Erromanga, we came to anchor in Pango Bay, Fate, where the vessel lay nine days; during which time, Messrs. Milne, Macdonald, MacKenzie and myself, with some of the ship's crew were employed in assisting Mr. Annand in the erection of his house on the *uninhabited islet* of Iririk, or Iririki, in Eil Harbour. It may seem strange to you to learn that we have located our new missionary where there are no people living; but you must know that Iririk is only to be Mr. Annand's place of residence, and that there are two adjacent islets, called Fila and Meli, which are inhabited by some hundreds of heathen,

whom I have heard designated as the *aristocracy* of Fate, and, that among these, Mr. A. expects to find a door opened to him to engage in the special work of his mission. Fila is not more than a mile from Iririk, while Meli is probably about four or five. Mr. Annand's sphere of labour is quite near to Mr. MacKenzie's, and, it is to be hoped, that the proximity of these two brethren to each other may prove a mutual advantage to them in the prosecution of their work. Some of the missionaries were desirous of having Mr. Annand settled on Erromanga, but as he expressed his decided preference for his present position, the Synod sanctioned his being settled there. We trust that the decision has been of God.

Mr. MacKenzie seems to be making progress in the acquisition of the language of the people among whom he is labouring, and is faithfully attending to the duties of his position. He has had two churches built, one at Erakor, and the other at Pango; and he and Mrs. MacKenzie conduct a school a few hours every day. Mr. MacKenzie is liked by the natives, and by the blessing of God upon his labours, I have no doubt but he will be the means of doing a good work yonder. The population of Pango and Erakor is 270, 77 of whom are church-members.

HAVANNAH HARBOUR.

We next visited Havannah Harbour, where Mr. Macdonald is stationed. This is a most important position in our mission. The harbour is one of the best in the New Hebrides, and the natives live around its shore;—I mean that Mr. Macdonald's parishioners are thus situated, so that in visiting the several villages, the missionary will not be under the necessity like some of his brethren here, to make ocean-voyages per boat. On account of its central position in the Group, Havannah Harbour has become the headquarters of Her Majesty's ships of war here, as it has of the white settlers in these parts; and more intercourse with the civilized world can be enjoyed there than anywhere else on the islands, as there is so much commerce kept up between the Europeans of the place and the Australasian colonies. But, as it is the great rendezvous of the traders, it will likely be a difficult station, requiring much care and prudence on the part of the missionaries. As yet all the natives there are heathen. I regret to say that neither Mr. nor Mrs. Macdonald has enjoyed good health during the past year. Mr. Macdonald had intended to withdraw from the field, for a time at least, on account of ill health; but as that of Mrs. McD. and himself has recently improved, he has changed his purpose.