

districts. This was a special endeavor to gather in outsiders, and the result was that many ordinary communicants were aroused to more intense earnestness regarding spiritual matters. Taking the joint stations there are at present 362 communicants on the Island. This year the people on the North half of the Island made 2,885 lbs., and those on the South half, 1,220 lbs., making a total of 3,505 lbs., best arrowroot, contributed for mission objects by this people, besides what they do to keep up mission buildings on their own island.

## EFATE.

The progress of the work during the past year, has been on the whole very cheering. A very severe type of influenza, brought from a neighboring island, Noumea, swept over several villages, but with little fatal result. The mission family were prostrated with it but recovered in safety. One difficulty in the way of the work hitherto, has been that the heathen villages scattered through the interior of the island were largely inaccessible to the gospel. Latterly a village has been built, not far from the mission premises, and to this, the people from the mountains, that wish instruction are removing. It now numbers about fifty natives, and more are joining them. They have built a little church, which is already too small. The missionary's statements may be summed up as follows: "Years ago, had you filled their huts with gold, you could not have persuaded them to move away from their own villages, and renounce the customs of their forefathers. But the gospel has silently influenced their hearts, and now of their own accord they have come to trust under the shadow of the Lord God of Israel. I cannot tell you how thankful I feel to a kind Heavenly Father, for permitting us to return to our field. We labored many years with apparently very little success, but now we are greatly rejoiced in seeing many turned from darkness to light. A few years ago our prospects for extending the work among the natives in the mountains seemed dark, they were so scattered, perhaps eight or ten in a village, and so inaccessible. Now we have the happiness of seeing them gathering into one village. I believe that before many years the scattered villages among the mountains will all have moved down. We have an accession every few weeks. The same is true of Mr. McDon-

alds side of the island. Twenty-nine have thus been gathered in from heathenism at this station during the past two months. At Fila the work is very hopeful. I believe we shall have a large ingathering there very soon. I was there last Sunday and as we went from house to house the natives were, waiting for us. They are just finishing their feast. You are aware that part of the village, one fourth, is Christian. When the rest of them join us we will attack Meli (the greatest stronghold of the enemy on the island) in true earnest. "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy and for thy truth's sake."

## ERROMANGA.

Mr. Robertson and family, returning from their furlough, reached their station in safety on the 25th of April, 1885, and were warmly welcomed by the natives. They found that on the whole the work had gone on well in their absence. The first communion after their return was held on the 28th of June, exactly 13 years from the day of their first settlement there in 1872, and on this occasion there were present 610, of whom 177 were communicants. Immediately before the communion he baptized thirty-seven adults, and twenty-four infants, and on Monday after communion married seven couples, and on Wednesday, the eighth. In noting the changes that have taken place in these thirteen years, Mr. Robertson says "then we had only a handful of true friends and helpers, now we can count them by hundreds, our teachers number 32, and our adult church members nearly 200, and there is nothing which our better class of people are not willing to do for us personally or in forwarding the work, and when I first came here I could not get a small piece of fence put up, though I offered large payment for it." He also writes,—"Our natives took great care of our mission station in our absence. Our mission buildings were beautifully white washed, cleaned, and painted, and the grounds like a well kept garden, the boat painted, the cattle and goats looking so well, and the grape vines bearing fine bunches of grapes. They built a new plastered school house at Traitors's Head, a kitchen for us, and fenced in the missionary premises. The most of our teachers have done well during our long absence, and several high chiefs have given up heathenism, and are now attending