

of our church. Considering their number, our natives have, we think, done very well this year.

The various classes have been kept up regularly, viz., that for the candidates on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and Mrs. MacKenzie's classes for women on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, also her school for the children of our nearest neighbours, as well as our usual adult and children's schools.

The work amongst the remaining heathen is much more hopeful than it was when I sent you my last report. We now visit Meli regularly, and for some time have not met with any open opposition.

In the early part of the year their opposition was very violent. One one occasion as the teachers approached their village, a number of them rushed down to the beach, armed, and threatened to murder the first one who should land. Not long after this one of the chiefs who had never manifested any hostility, came to Fila, when some of the teachers just referred to, asked him if he would be willing to receive a present in order that he should allow them to land on his side of the little island (Meli). When those hostile, heard that he received the present, they were very much enraged at him, and threatened to drive him away. He replied that he was ready for them whenever they wished to make the attack. There was nothing more done, however.

Shortly afterwards one of those most opposed, came to me, complaining that by giving that man a present, we were making him a higher chief than the others. I replied that such was not the case, but that it was merely to be allowed to land on the island, and that if he would be willing to receive a small present we would give him one too. I then explained to him that our object in going to his village was not to prevent them from engaging in their feasting, &c., in which their hearts are so much set, but to tell them God's great love in sending His Son to die for sinners, and that when they understand this, they will of their own accord, like the other villages, give up their old ways. To this he assented, and since that he has been much more friendly.

The only other part of our side of the island still heathen is Intang. You may remember that when some dozen or more natives of that district renounced heathenism, three or four years ago they were obliged, on account of the opposition of the heathen, to move to Erakor. I took two of these into the training class, with a view to sending them back as teachers, so soon as God in His providence should open the way. We visited them from time to time without much encouragement. Early in the present year

however, we found that a change had come over some of them, and when two of those driven away, returned in the capacity of teachers, the friendly ones supplied them with food, and assisted them in erecting a house. And one them did more than this, he gave a present of pigs to two of the principal men of the village, who were still hostile, and who came to the teachers threatening to spear them. We have now a fair prospect of seeing them all gathered in.

No. of Communicants .....	158
" admitted during year .....	26
" Baptized .....	38
" in candidates' class .....	40
" in Christian villages, about .....	500

J. W. MACKENZIE.

December, 1889.

#### LETTER FROM MR. ROBERTSON.

SYDNEY, Australia.

To the F. M. Committee, Pres Church,  
Canada, Eastern Division.—

DEAR BRETHREN,— I feel I owe an apology that for sometime past I have not written as fully and frequently about our work as I ought to have done.

For the neglect of this clear duty to my beloved Church in Canada, I am indeed sorry. Sickness in my family and much hard work alone prevented me writing to you, and prevented me also from writing to many S. Schools, W. P. M. Societies and personal friends that for six years have fully supported 34 teachers on Erromanga.

I find now that it is not what we *would* do but what is *possible*, that must be attempted in this as in other matters. Work presses daily upon all missionaries everywhere and when that is done that cannot be left undone, both body and mind are too often incapacitated for any more work or thought. This is especially true of all who toil in warm moist climates and among degraded races where there cannot be, for at least the first number of years, anything like a true division of labor.

Before leaving this subject of letter-writing, I just wish to ask all who have been, or are now supporting my teachers would do me just the great kindness of writing us a few lines as they may have time, giving full address and that so far as they may be able they will continue to help us in this great and good work. Several friends have discontinued sending their annual \$25, and small wonder when I never wrote to thank them. But, oh, if I could *now* tell them how full my very heart has always been, and still continues to be, of the deepest gratitude to