

you to write in the name of the Society. I also have to acknowledge letters from the following ladies, Mrs. A. Walker, Misses Matheson, Ross, McGregor, and McKeen. These letters were fully appreciated by us for their loving sympathy, and I should like to answer each separately but my time at present is too limited. Would you therefore kindly thank those ladies for me.

In reply to what you so kindly said concerning giving us assistance in our work, I may say that our natives are not entirely dependent on us for clothing. There are several white settlers at Fila harbour from whom they can purchase paint for their yams or other produce.

Besides this the men make cobra, for which they get either clothing or money and if cocoanuts were as plentiful on this island as they are on some of the others, cobra-making would be quite an advantage to our people. But cocoa nut trees are not abundant.

Years ago Mr. McKenzie pointed out the benefit of having plenty of cocoanuts and strongly urged them to plant more. Some of these acted on his advice and will before long have a fair supply.

This applies only to the christian natives. When the heathen join us, especially those inland, they are quite destitute of clothing. Hitherto we have been able, with the help of the christian natives, to give each person a garment as they came in.

But we have great difficulty in keeping the school children decently clad. There are between sixty and seventy in attendance. Some are always neat and clean. Others who belong to large families, and a goodly number who are orphans require assistance, so that we are frequently giving garments to such.

For the last few years we have endeavoured to have a Christmas tree for them, our desire being to give each child a ready made garment. Last Christmas we had only a few small shirts on hand so we were obliged to pass the day quietly. But through the kindness of friends of the mission in Nova Scotia we were able to give them their entertainment on the 25th of June. The little ones spent a happy day and went to their homes in the evening delighted with their presents.

The people of this village have just returned home with their arrow root. They bring it home in tubs, then spread it on sheets to dry. They made it at a stream near Meli, some miles from here. Meli is a powerful heathen village, perhaps the most powerful on the island.

Some months ago they borrowed a canoe from the Erakor people, but never returned it. A few weeks ago they came again wanting the chiefs large new canoe. He, remembering the past, refused to give it. This enraged them, and after returning home they sent word to the effect, that if Erakor people went there to make arrow root they would come and kill them, and wish their special friends to stay at home. Their word however was disregarded. All the adults went to the work except women with young infants. We felt a little anxious, knowing the bold warlike spirit of the Meli people. But this evening we were rejoiced to hear that the whole village came to them with presents of food.

I am glad to be able to tell you of continued health in our family, with one exception. Our youngest child had a severe illness which prevented Mr. McK. attending the meeting of Synod.

I was afraid Mr. McKenzie's health would give way under his hard work. He has done a good deal of house building this year. In this he was assisted by some young man, part of whom have become very neat work-men, that is, for New Hebrideans.

Would you please give Dr. and Mrs. Patterson our kind regards and thank them for the tokens of remembrance they sent us.

With our united best wishes for the prosperity of your Society.

I am yours,  
very sincerely,  
AMANDA MCKENZIE.

#### LETTER FROM MR. ELLA.

Rev. H. A. Robertson, missionary on Erromanga, was obliged to leave three of his children at School in Australia. The two girls were left at the school of the Misses Ella, daughters of Rev. Samuel Ella, for many years one of the missionaries of the London Missionary Society, first in the Samoa, afterwards in Loyalty Islands, but now retired. Mr. Robertson sends us the following note received by him from Mr. Ella. The many friends of our missionaries will be glad to hear that the children when deprived of parental care are doing well

Petersham, New South Wales,

May 23rd, 1885.

My Dear Mr. Robertson :-

As you will be wishing to hear of your