

work in the New Hebrides. The *Dayspring* could not accommodate all the material to be sent to the islands, and a schooner was engaged to accompany her with the balance of freight. The French seem determined to hold on to the New Hebrides, but the firm opposition of the Australians will compel them to call a halt. The British Government seems now, at last, to realize that it is at all a serious matter, and Sir Henry Holland says that the only solution of the difficulty seems to be the independence of the New Hebrides. That will suit us very well. By and by, as an independent state, the group will seek and obtain admission into the Australasian Federation, and it will be saved from the doom of becoming a receptacle of the vilest of French criminals. Jesuit missionaries are trying what they can do on two or three islands; but they tried in 1848-50, and gave up, leaving the ground to Dr. Geddie and the rest of our missionaries.

The ERAKOR people cheerfully aided Mr Mackenzie in all necessary work about the new church, which is a vast improvement on the old building. There is a comfortable new church at Fila. Mr. Mackenzie is breaking ground at Meli, where there is still much opposition to the Gospel. Mr. Mackenzie, last year, translated Philipians, 1 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and James. He and his associate in the island, Mr. Macdonald, translate alternate books. Mr. Mackenzie and his family are well again, after the bereavement and the sickness of a few months ago.

### Ecclesiastical News.

SCOTLAND: May. Glorious summer has come at last, and with it, in the blue sky, the gorgeous carol of the lark, and on every tree, the mavis or the blackbird or linnet or some sweet songster. The woods are all vocal. That is one of the charms of our Scottish summer time. Being only May, we have still the daffodil and the primrose and lily and many-tinted tulip. In ecclesiastical circles, Synods have been meeting, and many preparations are being made for the coming assemblies. The United Presbyterian Synod is now sitting; Mr. Smith, Greenock, Moderator. Like most enterprises just now, their funds have been suffering from the long continued depression of trade. In the Foreign Mission field there is an effort at concentration, in which case Spain

and Japan must be surrendered. The minimum stipend at home this year is stated at \$920 and a manse. That is a little over the Canadian. Is it not? The overtures for Union sent by last Assembly of the Established Church were discussed in the most amicable spirit, and an answer, the merits of which do credit alike to the head and heart of the Synod, was adopted, cordially reciprocating the desire for co-operation in all truly Christian work at home and abroad; and, while stating frankly and firmly their steadfast adherence to their voluntary principles, as well and scripturally grounded, at the same time maintaining that this difference of belief between the Established Church and themselves need form no barrier to combined effort in the common cause. A resolution, conceived and couched in the most Catholic and Christian spirit. Let us hope that it will have its due effect on the controversies and co-operations of the day. The question of disestablishment received the same fearless support it has ever met with in that Synod. Dr. Hutton led the way, was facetious, but stoutly stood by his guns. On this matter, he maintained there must be no compromise. "Opportunists waited for an opportunity which never came." They must ever keep this as a burning question in the very front. No half loaf even must be taken. It must be the whole thing or none! and with him agreed the majority of his brethren. Another view was taken by Professor Calderwood and Mr. McEwen, who pressed upon the Synod the necessity for accepting the legislative redress of single grievances, as that was offered; otherwise, as the Professor pitifully put it—They must be prepared to show why the very redress of a grievance was itself a grievance. But Dr. Hutton had his way, and the small following of thirty showed how unprepared the Synod was for any relenting. Dr. Ker has had no successor appointed in the Chair of Practical Training; the real difficulty appearing to be the selecting of the man qualified to follow a true Prince and Mighty One in Israel. For the next session the Senatus will have the matter in charge, giving as much time as the Professors can legitimately afford, and calling in the aid of others as Lecturers, should they see meet. Altogether, amid the strife of sects, and the alleged evils and so-called failures of voluntarism, the United Presbyterian Church sees cause to thank God and take courage, maintaining that much of the growing energy of the Established Church is due to her ingrafting the voluntary principle and practice upon her ancient stem. It is a poor Church which has no voluntary effort. Dr. Paton Gloag, of Galashiels, overtures the Assembly of the Established Church this year on the Subscription of the Confession of Faith by Elders. Thus in either Assembly is there likely to be a simultaneous attack on the old Confession as the Test of Orthodoxy, and the vaticum to the Church. The salaries of the Clerks of the dif-