

Schools.

Much close attention has been given to teaching, and more especially at the two central stations, where classes have been conducted daily, with the exception of Saturdays, and the progress of the children and young people has been most encouraging, and more than in any former year have the parents and friends of the children helped us in getting the children and young people to attend regularly the classes provided for them.

Perhaps the only drawback of any importance to the progress of the Mission on Erromanga now is the Queensland labour traffic. So many young men and boys have gone to Queensland, and so many are anxious to go, that we find that in most of the districts the most hopeful class of our people are either away, or unsettled, and so we are discouraged in our efforts to impart a more thorough education to our young people than they have hitherto enjoyed.

The Lord's Supper has been dispensed five times during the Synodical year, and each time at a different district. Three years ago we began to press upon our Dillon's Bay people, who can read well, the great benefit to themselves that would result if they would commit to memory a Gospel. A number began to do so. I selected the Gospel by John, and quite a number are now well on with that Gospel, and a few have finished it and have begun Mark.

In free labour the teachers and better class of people have re-thatched two of our mission buildings at Port Narevin and nine at Dillon's Bay, and they have cleaned all the roads leading from the head stations and have gone with me any time when I have been visiting the districts and schools.

New Testament in Erromangan.

For many years I have been engaged in translating portions of the New Testament and have given as much time to this important work as other work that could not have been neglected without injury to the mission, would permit. In 1878 I printed 1,000 copies of the Acts of the Apostles, in Sydney; in 1884 an equal number of copies of Matthew and Mark, in Toronto, and in 1890 2,000 copies of the four Gospels and the Acts, in Sydney. Besides these we have had four editions of our Catechism and Hymnal printed in the islands and at Sydney, from time to time, as we added new matter and former editions were exhausted. Whatever printing was done in the islands for us, was done without money and without price, by Messrs. Paton, Watt, Annand, Laurie, and Gunn.

Any editions of our Hymnal and Catechism printed and bound in Sydney we have paid for out of proceeds of our mission arrowroot, prepared annually by our better class of Christian natives, for unfortunately with us as with churches everywhere in the world, we have not a few slugs and para-

sites who have a name to live but none of the power.

All portions and books of the Scriptures we have had printed, were printed and bound at the expense of the British and Foreign Bible Society in London, in the first instance, and we have refunded the whole sum, with the exception of £30, which this noble society generously deducted when we made our last payment of the balance due on the edition of the Gospels and Acts.

The Bible Society also printed Genesis and Matthew for James D. Gordon as a free gift, for at that time there were few Christians on Erromanga to help.

During the past year I have been enabled to give a considerable portion of the forenoons of four days of each week when not visiting district schools and settlements, to the most important work I can now do for the firm establishment and permanence of the mission on Erromanga, namely, completing the translation of the New Testament. And my special object in coming to Sydney at this time is to finish and revise and transcribe that work and have it printed directly under my own personal superintendence, and I can do all this much better here than on Erromanga. I feel that woe is me if I do not give the Erromangans the entire New Testament, and that no amount of general missionary work, not even the preaching of the Gospel, can supply the lack now of the written Word of God in building up and establishing the people in the faith.

I therefore feel that "This one thing I do." A duty too long delayed, and the only duty, as regards Erromanga and the Erromangans, that I reproach myself for not doing, but hitherto I have been hindered. This has not been according to my heart, but no one man can do everything and perhaps as I now know the Erromangan language better than I did some years ago, the work will be better and more nearly correct than if it had been done earlier. And how our better men and women are now fairly hungering for this precious treasure! This too urges me forward in the work, at once difficult, laborious and intensely interesting.

I have just completed arrangements with the Bible Society to have the complete New Testament in Erromangan printed and bound here in Sydney, under their auspices, and for them and at their expense, the Society allowing me to refund the whole cost of printing and binding, year by year, as we may be able to prepare and dispose of arrowroot for that purpose, after paying the salaries of our own teachers on Erromanga.

Our Sale of Arrowroot.

We shipped 2,000 pounds of arrowroot in August, in the steamer "Thermopylae" of the White Star Line. That fine steamer was wrecked on that homeward voyage and our arrowroot was lost, but fortunately, Dr. Cosh had insured it, as he always does for