

'On Erromanga tho' quite a net work of native teachers has been spread over the island, they can yet afford to send forth more to the other islands.' \* \* \*

'We expect soon to have the work on Malekula, an island hitherto unoccupied taken up by missionaries.'

Though there is much to encourage, still, of course, in everything there is not encouragement, but, having in view the amount of encouragement, the discouragement acts but as an incentive to renewed vigorous effort.'

'Mr. Gray who has charge of the native Teachers Fund, reported that the demand of £180 is this year made upon the fund. There are in all 130 native teachers in the field of whom 38 are paid out of this fund.'

LETTER FROM REV. J. W. MCKENZIE.

My Dear Mr. Scott :

I wrote via Noumea a few weeks ago, and as the Dayspring will probably be leaving for Sydney very shortly I am writing another hurried note.

We are all well at present, but when the brethren called a few days ago on their way to the annual meeting at Api. I was not able to join them, as our youngest child was ill. My own health I am glad to say is excellent, notwithstanding the manual labour I have had. Our natives rendered me a great deal of assistance at the house, hence it was erected quite expeditiously. It was very gratifying to see them go at it so heartily.

We have now a comfortable mission house, but we need a new church very much. We must make an effort to get one of Colonial bluegum. Native wood lasts such a short time, and is now so difficult to be got, that we cannot think of building another of such material.

In addition to prepaying arrowroot to defray the expense of printing the Word of God in their language our natives could realize a considerable sum for a new church if we could only get a market for it. It is not now as it was years ago when the Aneityumese realized yearly such a large sum for their contributions. The supply of arrowroot now is much greater than the demand, hence we have great difficulty in disposing of it. Dr. Steel sent our last years contribution to Scotland, but has received no reply concerning it. Part of what we made year before last remains in Melbourne, unsold. Still we are not dis-

couraged. We will have a larger contribution than ever this year. Our missionaries from Australia have an advantage over some of us, in that their friends or supporters dispose of their arrowroot for them.

I fear our prospects for getting a steamer are not very bright. Those who can speak with authority on the matter seem to think the maintenance would be enormous. Of course the chief difficulty would be in maintaining her. Doubtless funds enough could be raised to purchase one. But unless our mission staff be increased, the present arrangements do not require to be changed. It seems that we can never get beyond the dozen. Twelve years ago we numbered a dozen, but there are only that number to day. New South Wales is again without a missionary. New Zealand has four, two from each church.

I was told some time ago by one of the settlers that R. C. priests are coming here, but have heard nothing since, neither do we hear anything now about the French taking the group.

The good work is making progress. More inland natives are moving to the shore to join the Christians, they are coming down from the mountains to drink.

Mrs. McKenzie has been very much cheered by getting such expressions of sympathy from New Glasgow, as last mail brought.

With our united kind regards to you all.

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

J. W. MCKENZIE.

LETTER FROM MRS. MCKENZIE.

Erakor Efats, New Hebrides.

July 3rd 1885.

My Dear Mrs. McColl :—

We are rushing through our letter writing with all possible speed as our wood ship will probably call next week for our mail. We did not know until she was on her way north a short time ago that we would require to have our writing finished so early. She generally leaves us about the first of September, but it appears that some of the missionaries are desirous of getting teachers from Rarotonga, and to accomplish this she will require to leave the islands at once.

I have to acknowledge a very kind letter from you which I received in May. At the same time I received one from Miss Carmichael, who was deputed by