

vided number for an excellent school house, costing complete £90. They have put up, and kept in repair, all the district school houses and churches all over the island, without any payment or any help from outside. I have not had to put a hand to these buildings, though I confess I talked a good deal them in the way of urging them to this work, but ministers and committees of management have often to urge congregations to their duty in this same work at home.

Then they have in many cases given themselves to the work. They have gone year after year, as teachers or servants, to missionaries in almost every station in the group. At present there are eleven so employed, and in November one of my best young teachers goes to Malekula.

Since I took charge of our church's mission on this once most dangerous of all posts on the Pacific, I have never had in my employ any except Erromangan teachers. At present I have, of teachers and their wives, employed on Erromanga, 53.

I forgot to mention that they gave me £55 to purchase a horse, cart, and harness, many years ago, and just last week, I applied to my teachers for money sufficient to support one more teacher on their own island, and I got the amount from them for the first year, although their own salary is only £5 for the year.

I have tried faithfully and briefly to state from memory the more important ways in which the people have helped in almost all departments of the work of our church's mission, and in how many other ways these poor Erromangan's have freely helped in the cause of missions, it would take too much time now to tell.

I am perfectly aware that in some mission fields the converts give more money, but they have money and markets. Our New Hebrideans have not the latter, and very little of the former finds its way among them.

To-day and get some clothing for the poor children of our schools, I sent this year 125 cases of oranges to Sydney, and received for the whole shipment but £3 10d, not enough to pay for the one item of customs duty in Australia, not half enough to pay for the lumber bought for the cases, and even after the freight, £19 had been kindly given me by the Dayspring Board, I was out of pocket £13 sterling.

As for cattle, we cannot sell them. I have myself given away altogether 28 head of cattle, weighing from 3 cwt. to 10 cwt. each, and never received a cent. Australia is the only market, and beef is so cheap there that it will not pay to ship it from here.

Considering their circumstances, I think they have the last few years done more than could reasonably have been expected of them. They have done nobly.

Yours faithfully,  
H. A. ROBERTSON.

## LETTER FROM MISS LESTER.

ONE OF OUR MISSIONARY TEACHERS AMONG  
PAGAN INDIANS OF THE FAR WEST.

Alberni, B.C., Nov. 27, 1892.

To REV. R. P. MCKAY,

DEAR SIR:—I think when I wrote you that I mentioned that I had started a sewing class for the Indian girls. They are the girls that come to my class in Sabbath school, and that we expect to take into the home. They are making rapid progress.

Then I invited some of the older boys who attend the day school to meet with me in the house on the Sabbath afternoon to read the Bible. The first Sabbath there were fifteen of us, but the number has increased and now we have an attendance of twenty six, including men and women as well as boys. We sing hymns, engage in prayer, and read together a portion of God's word. We are taking up the Gospel according to John.

Two weeks ago, at our meeting, after keeping them an hour and a half, I said that we would just sing one more hymn, and then close for I was sure they were tired, they said, "not tired not tired."

After closing the meeting they all sat still. I did not know what to say. At length I asked them if any of them wished to ask anything or to say anything. One young man said he did. "Well Jack what do you want to say." He hesitated. I told him not to be afraid. At last he got out the words, *I do love Jesus*. I do not think anything ever gave me more pleasure. I said "Let us all thank God that Jack is not ashamed to say publicly that he loves Jesus. We engaged in prayer. Jack was in tears.

I asked if any one else wished to say anything. When another young man said, "Look, look, look." I asked him if he wanted us to sing that hymn,

"LOOK TO JESUS WEARY ONE,"

He nodded his head; he cannot speak English except an odd word. We sang it heartily. We had a delightful afternoon.

Last Sabbath we had another grand day. It was joyous indeed to see so many joining in praising God and engaging in prayer, and giving such good attention to such explanation of God's word as I could give. There is nothing impossible with God.

I was sorry to see that so few could read, just the boys and girls, so I offered to teach the young man who told us that he loved Jesus, and two others, to read and write and count, if they would come sometimes in the evening. They come every night except Wednesday and Saturday and are getting along nicely.

Mr. McDonald invites all who wish to learn to