

vancement of her own peculiar dogmas. Acting upon a different principle, from that which regulates her movements within her own almost indisputable territory, where she is guided by the motto that "ignorance is bliss," she now and here professes great anxiety for the education of the community, nay *religious* education. Knowing that education the people will have, and that unadulterated truth will sadly militate against her best interests, she is sedulously endeavouring to secure the training of her lambs, in such a manner that they shall be shielded from the light of Bible truth, as well as that of fairly written history. She is playing a deep game, and as Protestants, valuing the privilege of a national system of education, we are called upon to watch and meet her movements. Her success and our danger is in our own listlessness. Though the majority of our population is not large in favour of the Protestants, yet it is sufficient to preserve our rights, if unity of action can be secured. But it is sad to see how often Rome turns to her own account the miserable scheming of some nominally Protestant politicians, and plays upon the liberal credulity of others. Hence the necessity for watchfulness.

With those convents, for which he is seeking public endowment, the bishop, with indomitable perseverance, is studding the Island. Perhaps the worst feature connected with these institutions is, that they are to a considerable extent patronized by Protestants, nay (with shame let it be recorded!) by some Presbyterians. Future generations may show the sad results of this intended kindness to children. Who can say what a stream of error may thus flow into the mind, along the channels of early feeling and youthful impulse, and how bitter a draught it may in the end become? To all parents we would say, as you value the welfare of your children, beware of committing their early training into the hands of Rome. She seeks to stifle, not to promote, real education. The ruling spirits in the nunneries are not the friends of sound and enlightened education. They are not qualified to impart it; and those who are deceived by their superficial parade, and pretentious display, are not wise. Better far, that the daughters of our land should grow to womanhood, minus the accomplishments of a lighter education, than that they should be committed to the tender care of nuns, and come forth from the convent, contaminated with the erroneous dogmas of the Romish church.

There are one or two other points to which I intended to advert, but finding that I have already occupied as much space, as you will care to devote to my communication, I shall obtrude no further.

A. F.

## Our Foreign Missions.

### NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

We publish a letter from the Rev. Mr. McNair, which contains the latest news from Erromanga. Our letters from Rev. D. Morrison speak more hopefully of his health. Rev. John Morton's letter will show the state of the work in Trinidad.— We have a letter from Dr. Geddie, dated Aneiteum, Nov. 27th. The Doctor had returned from his voyage among the northern islands. He appeals very earnestly for more Missionaries. We have a letter from Captain Fraser, dated 2nd January, 1869, written at Dunedin, New Zealand. The *Dayspring* left the New Hebrides on the 10th December, and reached Dunedin on the 29th. The mission families were all well at the date of sailing. It was expected that the *Dayspring* would leave New Zealand to re-visit the New Hebrides about the end of March.

#### Letter from Rev. J. McNair.

DILLON'S BAY, ERROMANGA, }  
October 27, 1868. }

Many thanks for your very kind letter of 28th May last. Many thanks to Mr. McKinnon and his congregation for the box of mission goods, which, however, has not reached us yet. I send, per Hugh Robertson, a few Erromangan clubs, bows and arrows, which you can divide among the *friends*. I should like very much to have sent you a piece of sandal-wood, but I have failed to get a nice piece except for gunpowder, which I would not give to a heathen man.

I beg to hand you a copy of a letter which I have addressed to Commodore Lambert on the subject of slavery. I hope the letter may speak for itself. You may place it in the hands of the Secretary of the anti-slavery society, if there be such in your quarter of the globe.

Things on Erromanga, at least on this side of the island, look as favourable and as hopeful as we could well expect. The heathen visit us frequently, both men and women, in considerable numbers. Their wants too are many and various. They want garments, medicines, hatchets, knives, nails, needles, thread, etc. We know that they are exceedingly fond of tobacco, but it is seldom they ask it from us, just because I presume they know they wont get it.