

better that the land should be purchased by the agent of the N. H. Mission and held in trust for the christian natives, so I presume he has asked our Board to pay for it. I think however that the natives should pay for it themselves, for of course it does not matter to them in whose name the land is held, so long as they can plant on it. My proposal to Dr. Storl was, that he should purchase it out of my salary, and that the natives should raise what money they could, and make up the rest with proceeds of arrowroot. They have collected between eight and nine pounds, which sum I intend paying into Dr. Steele's hands, for our church, that is, provided you have purchased the land, and part of the balance, if not the whole of it, I intend taking out of the proceeds of this years arrowroot, when it is sold.

I am ordering my house this trip, hoping to hear that the Board has sanctioned its payment.

We feel much encouraged in our work. During the past year about seventy have renounced heathenism. About half of them belong to a mountain away inland, and have moved down near the shore, expressly for the Gospel. They have built a neat grass church, and have a teacher living with them. Some half dozen of them now attend the candidates class. The Fila people have also built a church and about a dozen of them attend the above class. Fifteen church members were admitted, two of them from Fila.

I am enclosing a schedule which was prepared for our Mission Synod. It contains the statistics of our station at the end of May.

The 70 yds of print are a contribution from Erakor to the people of Intang where teachers have been settled recently, and where they have but small means of getting clothing. I may also add that the christian natives at Pango gave nearly all the natives of Fila who recently came in, a present of a shirt or dress. This they did of their own accord.

I have much satisfaction with my class of young men. They render valuable assistance in many ways, such as teaching in the children's school, holding service on Sabbath at the nearer villages, itinerating with me &c. When we went to the annual meeting I sent four of them to stay with teachers and assist them at their outstations. But although we are gaining ground from the enemy in so many directions, some strong holds still offer determined resistance. Not long ago two teachers went to Meli, a small island in Pango Bay, about six miles dis-

tant. They intended remaining till the next day, which was Sabbath, in order to hold service but they were told they would be cut in pieces if they remained, and they were shown the tomahawks with which they would be murdered.

Since I returned from the meeting I have been busy getting my translation of St. John's Gospel ready for the press. I hope to get it printed when the Dayspring is in Sydney first trip.

Although there is considerable difference of dialect, Mr. MacDonald and I have decided to make one translation for the island. By taking alternate books we hope to give our people the whole New Testament before many years. Our health continues good, except that Mrs McKenzie complains of feeling a little languid at times. This no doubt is owing to overwork.

With kindest remembrances to you all
I remain, Yours faithfully,
J. W. MCKENZIE

Letter from Rev. Dr. Steele.

Sydney N. S. Wales 8th Oct. 84

My Dear Dr. McGregor, —

I am happy to inform you that the Dayspring arrived safely in this port on the 8th Sep. and sailed again on the 4th Oct. You would receive the letters brought from the New Hebrides. The vessel brought 41 casks of arrowroot, more than ever before and more than we know what to do with. Several of the missionaries have friends in the churches to which they belong who undertake the sale, but Messrs. Annand and McKenzie are not so well provided in that way owing to the distance from all their constituents. The market in Australia and New Zealand is pretty well stocked by the missionaries from these parts. Little can be done for the sale of arrowroot here owing to the great supply from other islands of the Pacific and to the fact that it is being made in the Northern part of the Colony. I have sent Mr. McKenzie's casks to Glasgow in hope that by the influence of Dr. Inglis it may be sold.

Mr. McKenzie has forwarded Mrs of St. John's Gospel in Fatase for the purpose of being put through the press in Sydney. I have at his request applied to the British and Foreign Bible Society in London to pay the expense, about £64 for 1500 copies.

The Rev. W. B. Murray who had oc-