

his visit home, cheered and strengthened; and the work seemed to prosper well; but now he has to encounter now difficulties. Captain Fraser, formerly of the Dayspring, before he left the Mission, bought up the land where stands the village of Erakor, Mr. Mackenzie's principal station. And he is now selling it through Mr. Cronstedt, a trader who lives in Aneitum, to French trading companies.—These are hostile to Missions; and Mr. Mackenzie is meeting with new difficulties in his work. Let us pray that He whose work it is will bring good out of seeming ill.

Since the settlement of Rev. J. M. Robison at Spring Hill the congregation has been making rapid progress. They have outgrown the old church, sold it to the Baptists, and are planning to build a new church the ensuing summer. In addition to this they have intimated to the Presbytery that they will no longer require the Supplement they have been receiving to aid them in supporting their minister. Well done.

In some parts of the country petitions are in circulation for license to sell liquor. One argument by which people are sometimes imposed upon, and their signatures obtained is "That if licenses are to be granted it is better to license a respectable house than one that is disreputable.

1. Selling liquor for common drinking purposes is not, and can never be respectable, in a moral point of view, in God's sight, so long as it impoverishes and ruins men, in purse, body, and soul.

2. If a public house is respectable, liquor selling will soon drag it down to the level of the trade.

Another stock argument in favor of granting licenses is that less liquor is sold where they are granted than where they are not; that those who have to pay for licenses will keep down all unlicensed sellers."

1. It is not a fact. Licensed liquor sellers do not prosecute, and try to shut up unlicensed grogeries.

2. If they did try what folly to suppose that they have more power to effect it than all the temperance people of a community.

3. Whether the result of granting licenses seem to lessen the sale of liquor or not, Christian people have no right to sign such petitions. What saith the Word, "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather *reprove* them.

In another column are acknowledgments by Mr. Robertson, of sums received by him for his work on Erromanga.—Friends have dealt generously, and the hearts of the missionaries will be cheered by the interest that is taken in them and their work, or rather, *our work*, which they are doing for us.

A word here may not be out of place. Let no man or woman or society think that because they have given large sums for special purposes they have therefore done their duty by Foreign Missions. It is hoped that in no case will such gifts take the place of regular contributions to the Funds of the Board. All extra gifts to special objects connected with the Mission should be *over and above* the contributions to the regular fund. By all means let us be generous as we can. Let gifts be increased rather than diminished, but let us at the same time be just.

We have undertaken Mission Work.—There are several laborers in the field.—These must be regularly paid. And that cannot be done without funds. The first thing in all cases is to see to it that we do our duty towards this Fund, for on it all the missionaries depend. Having given our proportion to that, we should in all other ways do what we can to lighten in some measure, by our sympathy, our help, our prayers, the burdens of those who often in loneliness and discouragement are telling the heathen the Way of Life.

A FEW FACTS.

1. There are in the Maritime Synod 180 congregations.