

sion. In my opinion, no charity can compete with efficient medical help, and I feel certain the worthy attempts of our friends will always realize the good wishes of their originators.

The hospital is most appropriately to be called Queen's Jubilee Hospital, and at the desire of Madame O'Hara, I, with the kind permission of His Highness, declare it open, with a prayer to the Almighty to grant permanency and prosperity to the establishment and its founders.

In conclusion, I express my hearty thanks to Madam O'Hara and the staff for the honour they have so kindly done me personally by asking me to preside on this occasion.

THE NEW HEBRIDES "DAYSPRING"

LETTER FROM REV. H. A. ROBERTSON.

Martyr Church, Dillon's Bay,
Erromanga, 15th May, 1897.

Dear Mr. Scott,—

What madness to go to the great expense of keeping up a small steamer entirely and expressly for the maritime work of this small mission when we have now running regularly between Australia and these Islands a splendid line of steamers, owned and managed by an honorable British company, many of the shareholders of which, if not all of them, are among the best of the leading men in Melbourne and Sydney, gentlemen.

Besides the larger question of the danger to British interests in the group, and, it may be, the very existence of the mission, by thus preventing, in some measure, the establishment upon a sure footing of British commerce; we shall, by maintaining a mission steamer, owned and managed by the churches, have a much inferior service, less frequent, and far more expensive than if we had continued our connection with the company which has served us so well for several years.

I think I never knew greater madness than this steamer craze of some of the Melbourne people (not all of the Victorian Assembly by any means) and Dr. Paton, and some people in Europe and America who know nothing about our wants nor the peculiar circumstances of our Mission and group, and the information they did get was wild and confused, and all one-sided at that.

Only one who refuses to see would think of affirming that one little steamer of our own can do our work as well as two large steamers, the inter-island one about five or six hundred tons, and the ocean one two thousand tons. Well might Mr. Watt characterize the procuring of a missionary steamer expressly for the mission, as "a sinful waste of the Lord's money." And so it is.

However, my conscience is clear. I have

opposed the idea of a mission steamer since 1886, or ever since I learned what it would cost to maintain one large enough to do our work well; and I have been more decided in my opposition since a regular line of commercial steamers began to run between Sydney and these islands, doing away with even a ghost of a reason for having one specially for the mission.

As there is to be a large muster of the missionaries who are in favor of a mission steamer present at this Synod, including Dr. Paton's two sons, and so few present of those who do not approve, or decidedly disapprove, of a mission steamer, the former will easily carry a resolution to build and maintain such a craft. Messrs. McDonald, Lamb, Mackenzie and Robertson are absent from Synod this year, all against a steamer of our own, and Mr. Watt is Moderator, so that he and Dr. Annand and Mr. Landells will be outnumbered. Ah, well, the Lord reigns, and that is everything.

Mrs. Robertson's health has much improved during the past two years, or she could not remain on these depressing and unhealthy islands. But she is not strong, though always at work.

My own health is excellent, but I do not feel quite so young as I did when we took charge of the mission (forlorn hope) on Erromanga, twenty-five years ago. What hath God wrought since that memorable June day when we landed here in 1872. Best of all, 1896-97 has been perhaps among the most encouraging years in our work on Erromanga we ever have had.

As anticipated in the above letter, and already widely published, the Mission Synod at its meeting in May voted in favor of a mission steamer to replace the new vessel which was wrecked last autumn.

To read of a vote of a Synod "almost unanimous" sounds large, but when we remember that the whole number of missionaries is a dozen and a half, that so far as can be learned there was scarce a baker's dozen present, that among them was Dr. Paton and his two sons, that three of the small number present recorded their dissent, and that most of those not present were opposed to the scheme, that our three missionaries, who have served longer than almost all the others in the group, are among its opponents, the "resolution of Synod," as representing any wide extended opinion, shrinks small.—Ed.

TWO GOOD LETTERS FROM INDIA.

Or rather, one from India and one about India, for Dr. Buchanan is in Canada, preparing for work among the Bheels.

Jairam's letter shows an advanced stage in mission work, when the fruits of that work become themselves workers, and such excellent ones.