

help of God, able to continue until now, and preach the gospel to thousands, and translate the most of the New Testament into the language of the people, part of which Mr. Watt has printed with his own hands. And when I saw Mr. Watt in December last, on my way home, he seemed to be more hopeful than ever I saw him before. He had just formed a communicants' class, and hoped to be able to baptize some of them soon. And what seemed to encourage him most was the fact of all those who were worshipping people before he came home on furlough continuing to be so during his absence and when he returned : none of them had gone back to heathenism.

EROMANGA.

Ten years ago Christianity on Eromanga was at a very low ebb indeed. Mr. McNair had just died, and soon after that Mr. Gordon was killed, and there were not above eight or ten church members alive on the island. Two years ago there were fifty church members, twenty-five of whom were stationed out as teachers. A good many more have been baptized since then. The majority of the people are now favorable to Christianity ; and if there were a second missionary along with Mr. Robertson, to take up the work on the other side of the island, heathenism on Eromanga would, in all probability, soon be a thing of the past. The New Testament is nearly all translated ; Genesis, Matthew, Luke, and the Acts are now in print.

EFATE.

Ten years ago there were but two Christian villages on Efate. There are now five Christian villages on that island, and other five or six villages partially so. Genesis, Mark, Luke, and the Acts are printed, and Exodus is ready for printing.

NGUNA.

Ten years ago I was appointed to Ngunu, a small, heathen island, about five miles north from Efate, where no missionary had ever been before ; on which island, and on several other small ones near to it, principally Pele and Mataso, I have been laboring ever since, and although it has been a time of sowing rather than of reaping, I am happy to be able to say that I am now beginning to see some fruit. Last year I baptized thirty-four adults and seven children. Up to that time I had baptized only six adults and one child. There are thus now in all forty church members in full communion, and eight baptized children. Two of those baptized last year are chiefs,

one of whom is the highest chief on the island. He had ten wives, but before his baptism he put them all away except one. That one and three of the others were baptized along with himself, as also his two sons with their wives, and one daughter. The first convert at Pele now acts as teacher there. At Mataso a Rarotongan teacher has been laboring for nine years. Our first converts were four young men belonging to that island. At each of these three places we have a church and a school. Several small books, consisting chiefly of Scripture extracts and a hymn book, are printed. The Gospels by Matthew and John are translated, and about to be printed by the British and Foreign Bible Society. A *Catechism of Scripture Truth* is also ready for the press. There are fourteen islands all visible from Ngunu, where the same language, or a dialect of the same language, is spoken or understood, so that one speaking the Ngunu dialect might begin at the south side of Efate and preach the gospel all over that island, and over all the islands to the north of Efate as far as Tonga and the south-east end of Epi, and be understood by most of the people ; which is quite an exceptional thing on the New Hebrides, for, as you know, on most of the islands there is a different language, peculiar to each particular island, and on some of the islands there are two or three languages.

A GREAT DOOR OPEN.

Nearly all those islands are now open for the gospel, and, indeed, almost every island of the New Hebrides is so, and asking for missionaries, and we have none to give them. We have been able to occupy as yet scarcely one-third of the group. We would require at least thirty or forty missionaries to enable us to overtake the whole group. The largest and the finest islands still remain unoccupied. About one hundred thousand people still remain in heathenism, most of whom never heard the gospel. About twenty different languages are spoken, requiring as many separate translations of the Bible. The whole Bible has as yet been translated into only one of those languages, thus leaving eighteen or nineteen translations, in whole or in part, yet to be made. Surely, then, those who think that the New Hebrides is too small and unimportant a field for them to go to, make a great mistake.

We are anxious also to have a medical missionary to be stationed on Efate, the most central island of the group, where