

in the *Record*, and gave my address in writing to a great number of friends, clergymen and others, namely :—

REV. H. A. ROBERTSON,
New Hebrides Mission,
Care of Rev. Dr. Steel,
77 Macleay Street,
Sydney,
New South Wales.

Now, no matter what Island of the group I may be on, or where I might be in Australia before going down to the Islands, or what day, week, month or year, letters were sent from home, or any other part of the globe to the above address, Dr. Steel always forwards my letters by the very first vessel or steamer after they come to his hand. And as there are no regular mails from Sydney or any other port in Australia, it is no manner of use for my friends or the church, or Board, or my intimate friends amongst the ministers, to wait for some certain season when they think the Mission vessel is in Australia, because all months are alike, for letters which are to be forwarded, after they arrive in Australia, to a group of islands in the Pacific, when no postal arrangement by any government has yet been established, and when all the islands, with but few exceptions, are governed by a lot of savage chiefs, few of whom ever saw a letter; and if they found out such letters or bits of simple paper were made to convey your ideas, good wishes and instructions to me, would think it was the work of *Teapolo*, or evil one; or they and the hords of savages under them, would perhaps ask for this singular document, in order that they might carry it with them in war as a great power aiding them in the fight, and causing the enemy to flee at the very sight of this *speaking letter*, fearing it as a very *Natmas* or Spirit. It is better always to forward my letters to Dr. Steel, Sydney, because there are ten chances by trading vessels going to the New Hebrides from Sydney for one from Melbourne. (2) It is always best to send valuables and money to Rev. D. McDonald, D. D., Emerald Hill, Melbourne, Australia, because Melbourne is the *Dayspring's* headquarters; and hence all the missionaries get their annual supply of groceries, ironmongery, clothing, Mission goods, &c., &c., in Melbourne, and Dr. McDonald settles all such accounts by request of each Missionary, as the case may be, and keeps an open account with the missionary or missionaries; but unless he has funds sent by the church, he cannot be expected to do so. And if the money be sent to Dr. Steel, and not to Dr. McDonald, it costs the missionary the price

of a draft, besides postage and delay. I know the church will be pleased for me to give such information, until they get so organized that they will not require it.

Rev. Dr. McDonald, Agent of the Mission at Melbourne, very kindly called on me last night, saying: "I came to have a talk with you. I know your money has not come, but know your church will soon send it; and trusting it is now on its way to me for you, I cannot think of you being in want, and as you must have contracted debts here for your *groceries*, ironmongery, &c., &c., I offer now to advance you money to pay all your bills, until your salary comes on." You cannot understand how thankful I felt, though Mr. Smith and the other two firms which supplied us were quite willing to wait till my money came. To-day I gave them an order on Dr. McDonald for the amounts, and my mind is thus, by God's kindness, made much more at ease.

Dr. McDonald has thus paid for me, £116 stg., and I trust that remittances will soon be forwarded, so that Dr. McDonald shall be reimbursed. The first year is the great outlay to a missionary. He must purchase suitable clothing for the tropics; then there is everything to commence housekeeping, besides twelve months' groceries. After the first year his groceries and ironmongery are the only heavy bills. I have purchased nails, oils, paints, picks, spades, axes, knives, wood-saws, &c., for a house; but dare not think of getting a house-frame, boards, doors, windows, &c., just now in Australia, but will try and build a mud house myself, until I get somewhat out of debt, and then I will (D. V.) get a house frame here with windows, doors, flooring; and I shall lathe and plaster it myself on the islands. The coral stone makes beautiful white lime when thoroughly burnt.

I paid freight on the mission goods, Mr. Goodwill's and my own, and expenses from Liverpool to Melbourne, £15 stg. I purchased £39 worth of goods for Mr. Goodwill in Glasgow, most suitable for them, but got £30 3s. 9d. stg. to purchase such goods in the old country. With the freight, insurance added, they will cost him over £45; but I don't think the church will debit him with the insurance, so giving him £5 out of the £15 I paid for freight and expenses, his goods will just cost him £44. £30 3s. 9d. given him of that; but he has full £44 worth of excellent goods, as their wholesale price in Glasgow was £39, and then the freight here £5. There is, of course, no expense on our goods once placed on board the *Dayspring*