

expect in so infantile a Church." Such are the very words of our Missionary; cheered by seeing around him some whose profiting in spiritual matters is manifest to all, and who shall be his crown of rejoicing in the day of the Lord Jesus. They appear to have borne with submission the visit of whooping cough, which carried off most of the children under two years of age. Mr. Morrison's statistics of Erakor give 1 marriage, 8 births, 15 deaths, 8 of which were children under two years, cut off by whooping cough. His community is not large, but it may be regarded as christian, as there is only one unbaptised adult in it. May the spirit of all grace carry on His own work throughout Fata, blessing with a copious share His own people, and reclaiming these surrounding wastes of heathenism and bringing them to blossom as the garden of the Lord.

#### MR. MORRISON—HIMSELF.

What the will of the Lord may be regarding our dear brother now removed from his endeared flock, we cannot tell. The future is wisely and mercifully hidden from us. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Mr. Morrison recovered gradually during the whole voyage to Australia. There was no relapse on reaching land, but improvement seemed at a stand, arrested in all probability by the extra exertion arising from meeting with strangers and friends. Proceeding to Melbourne in the Dayspring he consulted eminent medical authorities, and learned that his case was very critical, and that entire rest for a year was indispensable. The Board immediately authorized Dr. Steele to furnish whatever funds might be required to promote his comfort, assuring Mr. M. that he had the deepest sympathies and would surely have the fervent prayers of the whole church. He writes regularly every month, and up to the latest date, April 22, had continued to improve, but remained weak and unfit for any public work, or any considerable effort. The gracious Lord has given him peace and submission, and raised up around him many christian friends, who have opened to him their hearts and homes, to whom, (and we would name Rev. Mr. McIntyre, and Wm. Wright, Esqr., of the Episcopal Church,) we, as well as he, are under the deepest obligations of gratitude. We repeat that we know not what the will of God may be in the matter, but we do know our own duty, and it may be expressed in words which describe the exercise of the early church when Peter's life was in peril, "*Prayer was made without ceasing, of the church unto God for him.*"

As we are proceeding in our review from the more recent to the older stations, we come next in order to

#### ERROMANGA.

But as Mr. Gordon's annual report and Mr. McNair's interesting letters have been so recently published in the Record, a very rapid review will suffice. And first of all we find the Erromangans at their usual employment. War has become chronic there. War is the rule, peace the exception; and we can easily understand how many and formidable are the barriers to progress thus thrown up. Against these Mr. Gordon has been contending for years, and when they are associated with strongly rooted prejudices against the Gospel, when the public sentiment is that the Gospel is the precursor and introducer, if not the cause of disease, it is not strange that our brother should head one paragraph with the words "slow progress." Is it not cause for gratitude that our Missionaries there have been able to hold their ground and if there has been any progress, surely many thanksgivings should be left at the foot of the throne. Well there has been progress. Two men within the year, making 16 in all, have renounced their heathenism, and have been baptised. The average attendance in School has been about forty, while three members of the church have been married by their Pastor. We should add that there are also such external improvements as Mr. Rand now reports, respecting our Mic Macs, plantations enlarged, new houses raised, and new canoes made, and when a respite from war was enjoyed, a class of little boys living on the Mission premises at Dillon's Bay, were formed into a Sabbath School Class.

#### EPIDEMIC.

And what was done was effected in the face of as great a scourge as war, the diphtheritic epidemic, terrible in Nova Scotia, in New Brunswick, in our islands, still more terrible there, with no physician, and few appliances for relief. Nearly all on the Mission premises were seized, and some with a remorseless grasp; some died, and terror and despondency spread in all directions. Hostilities were suspended, schools had to be closed, and Missionaries were threatened, but they held their ground, faithfully discharged their duties alike to the souls and to the bodies of the Erromangans, and their lives though threatened were preserved, and Mr. McNair heroically kept the true standard erect, when Mr. Gordon and Mrs. McNair left the island in the Dayspring.

#### MR. GORDON IN AUSTRALIA.

And here we should consider what has been done in translation. Last year Mr. Gordon published a translation of Leitch's Scripture Catechism for beginners, 1500 copies. His rest in Australia this winter has been of rather a novel character, for it