

half way home we turned off the path to visit a Chief who, we heard, was talking about giving up heathenism, and moving down to one of the Christian villages. We found him along with some of his men sitting in the *fara* men's house.) Finding him very friendly we remained all night at his village. He and his men went off to their plantations, and each returned with a bunch of yams which they laid in a heap. This, along with a small pig the Chief afterwards brought, was a present for us, and served us all for supper and breakfast, my share of it being put into a small sauce-pan which had found its way up there.

I found the dialect different from any I had met on the island and embraced the opportunity of writing down a number of words.

I had very comfortable quarters for the night. The Chief generously gave me up all to myself a small new hut he had. It was raining next morning when we left, which, owing to the nature of the soil, made the path very slippery. But enough, I am afraid I will weary you so I must say good-bye. Many thanks for the *MARITIME*, which quite posts us up in church news. Wishing you much of the Master's presence in every department of your work.

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

J. W. MACKENZIE.

P.S.—I am now daily looking for the *Dayspring*. As soon as she leaves I intend (D.V.) to make another visit to the east side of the island. We live on the southwest side.

Letter from Rev. H. A. Robertson.

ERROMANGA, Aug. 20, 1885.

Dear Dr. MacGregor:

The *Dayspring* sailed from our Harbor only two days since *en route* to Sydney, and I am ashamed to state without a line for the Church in Canada from me. I think I never felt the general work of our large field press upon us more than it has done since our return, so that not only labor vessels but also our own mission vessel came and went and I did not get a note sent by any one of them. However, this morning a topsail schooner came into our Bay, partly for water and partly for shelter from the storm, and for ballast, and the captain is willing to take letters

for us. It is an ill wind that blows nobody good.

The *Dayspring* brought a letter from Mr. Ella stating that our children were quite well and attending well to their studies. We are very glad and thankful to get such cheering news, for we had not heard from them since we parted from them in Sydney. Mrs. Robertson, our youngest child, and myself enjoy good health.

Mrs. R. was not well for a month after our return. She caught cold lying on the deck of the *Dayspring* on the voyage from Sydney. To escape sea sickness she only went down to the little box cabin of the vessel when driven by rain or the cold at night, and caught cold in this way. As crowds of natives were coming every day to welcome us to Erromanga, much work needed to be done and she could not rest. But for more than two months since she has arrived here she has been very well.

We arrived here April 25th, and no people, white or colored, heathen or christian, could have been more willing or more obliging and kind than our Erromangans have been to us since we came back to them.

We had 600 natives here during the week of our winter Communion, and many remained about long after the Communion was over, and such an unusual gathering of strangers in our valley always causes us more work. Still we do not like to dismiss them until they feel like going themselves, for they seem to benefit by their contact with the more enlightened Christians here and the Mission family. We find it very uphill work to teach them order as to place or time. During Communion week and for a week previous and two weeks after we found it would perhaps further the Mission cause best if we did not make any very hard rule, so we gave them our whole time. For these three weeks our time was taken up, first in writing to the teachers to come and bring the Church members to Communion; then going over each name with the teachers to find out how they stood, and I am sorry to state we had some pruning to do; next to examine candidates for Baptism; then go over the teachers list with the hope of filling up seven blanks caused by death in our absence, and also to remove some who were unsuitable and appoint others to their districts, and one