

the missionary, are brought from every quarter, proving the sincerity of the general joy. And shortly afterwards the LORD'S SUPPER was celebrated on Erromanga, ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-NINE disciples of Jesus partaking of the emblems of His redeeming love. Over six hundred participated in or witnessed the solemn and delightful services, which were held within sight of the spot where Williams and Harris fell, and where the Gordons lie buried. Day after day the natives from a distance clung round the mission family, listening to the Gospel message, expressing variously their joy over the missionary's return, and rendering such service as they could.

And what accounts for the contrast between the reception to John Williams in 1839 and to Hugh Robertson in 1885? The answer is not far to seek. Here as elsewhere the blood of the martyrs has been the seed of the church. The blood of Williams and Harris and the Gordons was not shed in vain. In 1872, about four months after the death of James Gordon, Mr. Robertson and his wife landed on Erromanga. In the face of many perils, and in the midst of constant alarms and dangers for years, they bravely and persistently did their work: and now, by the blessing of God, the blood-stained isle is under the influence of the Gospel; a strong church is organized; and the power of Christianity is felt and exhibited in the daily life of the people. If our New Hebrides mission could point to no other fruit than is now shewn in the case of Erromanga, there would still be ground enough for abundant gratitude. But there is Aneityum, where our heroic Geddie fought so good a fight and won so noble a victory. There is Efate, where our Morrison and Annand and Mackenzie have laboured—where Mackenzie is labouring still with increasing success. The last words in the journal of John Williams,—written as the "Camden" was skirting the coast of Tanna, and as Erromanga was looming up in the distance, were: "This is a memorable day—a day to be transmitted to posterity." Yes: no doubt that November day, when Williams closed so tragically his splendid career, was the precursor of the glorious day in June, 1885, when so many joyous converts celebrated the Lord's Supper in Erromanga:

Home Mission Committee.

(Western Section.)

CONVENERS' ANNUAL CIRCULAR.

AS the time is at hand when congregations and mission stations make their appropriations to the different schemes, permit me to remind you of *the continuous and increasing demands* upon the Home Mission Committee, and to express the hope that the contributions for the present year will *in no case* fall short of the past. The deep interest that continues to be manifested by the Church in this scheme, and the generous response that has been made for many years, gives the assurance that, as the work expands, the funds will be cheerfully provided. To Home Missions we are indebted for the marked increase of settled congregations which has characterized the last few years, while at the same time, by thus multiplying the sources of liberality, *all the other benevolent schemes* of the Church are assisted. The maintenance and extension of Home Mission work thus helps all the other schemes of the Church.

EXTENT OF THE WORK.—The Home Mission report of last Assembly contains the names of 208 mission fields, or 614 preaching stations under the care of the committee. Of this number 277 are in Manitoba and the North-West, and 78 are in Muskoka. The still more rapid extension of the work, not only in these more distant fields, but in the Manitoulin Islands, and in the lumbering districts of the Ottawa, simply depends upon the ability of the committee to undertake new obligations.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—A new and important field, and one that must for some time be expensive to work, has now been opened up in British Columbia. The brethren already there, Messrs. Mackay, Fraser, Thomson and Chisholm, while doing excellent work and meeting with great success, are quite unable to meet the necessities of a somewhat scattered population, and are earnestly pleading for additional missionaries. An influx of population, more or less, will follow the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, for which our Church must be prepared.

EXPENDITURE.—The expenditure of the committee for the present year for purely mission work will not be less than \$31,000. Of this amount, the committee have pro-