

be turned to some account in the best of causes.

MISSION GOODS.

I am sorry to inform you that the supplies sent by the "Sydney" to Melbourne have not reached us. I received a package from Sydney via Isle of Pines a few days ago, and, as Dr Ross makes no mention of them, I conclude that they have not come to him. It is quite possible that they are still safe, though their detention is inexplicable. There is regular steam communication between Melbourne and Sydney four times a week, so that goods can be transmitted at any time. A box which you sent in the "Aurora" to Melbourne reached us two years after it was shipped, and that in a very damaged condition. In time to come boxes sent to the Mission should be accompanied by a letter of advice to the Rev Dr Ross. I will write to Dr Ross on the subject, and also to the Rev R. Hamilton of Melbourne, to whom I have recently written about other matters, and I hope the result will be either the supplies or definite tidings about them. In the present instance the disappointment will be considerable. The time when our native teachers receive their annual supplies is near at hand, and I have nothing to give them. Their supply last year was limited, and for this reason they need clothing very much.—In as far as they are concerned there will not be any trouble, for they will be satisfied when I tell them my disappointment. I am glad to say that, through the kindness of Mr Inglis, I have been able to forward to our teachers on Tana and Futuna a liberal supply of clothing, and also to give those an outfit whom we are about to send away. The plan we have hitherto acted on, in relation to our teachers abroad, is, for each missionary to make provision for those who have gone from his district.

I cannot close my remarks on this subject without expressing my admiration of the liberality of the friends of the Mission, and my thankfulness for their generous tribute to the cause of God.—What has been done shows that our people have the spirit and ability to do much in any good cause. I trust that their interest in the Mission may not be without its influence on your unworthy agents abroad, and that we may feel it our duty to labour with more energy in a cause, which, thank God, has taken hold of so many hearts at home.

SUPPORT OF NATIVE TEACHERS.

In your letter you request information about the support of native teachers.—We have at present four Samoan teachers on this island, two of whom are stationed in Mr Inglis' district and two in my own. They have always received their annual supplies from the missionaries of the London Society. This arrangement was made at our request, to prevent all discontent. They are natives, and we feared that, if they did not receive things of precisely the same amount and quality as their countrymen on the neighbouring islands, dissatisfaction would be the result. The value of clothing given annually to each Samoan family is from £3 to £4 sterling. In addition to this we always give them presents from the supplies you send. I may mention that one of the Samoan teachers, perhaps more, will return to their own islands when the "John Williams" comes. Their places will not be supplied by others. Any thing, therefore, that the Board of Mission gives for the support of Samoan teachers should go as a donation to the London Missionary Society for this object.

As regards our teachers, who are natives of this island, the people among whom they reside provide them with food, and we supply them with clothing. I have never drawn on your funds for any thing for their support, as the supplies hitherto sent have enabled me to fulfil to some extent my engagements to them. As civilization advances their wants will increase, but I have no doubt but the contributions of friends at home will enable us to provide for them, for years to come, without drawing on the funds of the Mission. Our teachers have no stipulated salary, but we give them yearly the amount of clothing they need, and if they have additional wants they make them known, and these we meet as far as possible. I mentioned in my last letter that a limited supply of hatchets, knives, chest locks, hinges, and tools of any kind, would be an invaluable gift to our teachers. At this date I have nineteen teachers settled, natives of this island, and hope to station another in a few days. Mr Inglis has about the same number in his district.

MISSION TO ERROMANGA.

The Erromanga mission has suffered severely from sickness during the past year. Four Samoan families were landed on that island last November, of