

are likely to become connected with you in the mission work on the New Hebrides. I am glad to learn that Tanna is likely to receive the gospel now. I believe Neilson is the man for that station. I hope Watt is of the same spirit. May they be blessed of our Master. The darkness of the west must disappear before the full light of the gospel of Christ, if the lamp-bearers are earnest, holy, *pushing* men. We lack too much the *apostolic* spirit in the East, and are become *pastors*. In the New Hebrides you are all apostles—if not you ought to be. I trust you will be a blessing to the Churches during your stay at home. Tell all the bright and the dark—not the bright only,—give true missionary information. Watch well over your own soul; dry, hard study requires much earnest prayer. Close study of theology will need your constant study of God's word and a close, holy living to Him, the fountain of all truth. Make Christ your all. Temptations, many, will assail you, but your Father will be near.—Doubts will creep in, thieves of hell—guard against them—encourage them not. Students frequently pride themselves in being thought sceptical—in advancing doubts. Do not be over-confident so as to debar your enquiry into all truth—fear nothing, by prayer and keeping firm by the cross, wade through all. Some filthy paths you will go along, but on. A brother speaks to a brother, and I do earnestly exhort you to be much with Christ—take all to Christ—tell Him all—trust Him for all. In preaching seek to preach Christ. Did we but more lay His fulness before men—many, many more souls would be saved. Be lively—be cheerful—be holy—be earnest. God bless you. Our united love to you. Write, write, write.

Affectionately yours,
JAMES CHALMERS.

MR. H. A. ROBERTSON.

Voyage and Settlement of Mr. Gordon on Espiritu Santo.

BY REV. J. G. PATON.

(Concluded.)

Saturday, 12th.—Crowds of natives came off to the *Dayspring* this morning with yams, taro, weapons, earthenware, baskets, ornaments, and beautiful native plants for sale, and one brought me a bag filled with earth in which he said to plant them, and for which he asked a piece of calico. Stout calico, knives, brads, and axes were the only things they cared for. Generally their canoes had ten, twelve, or fourteen men on board, and paddling two abreast. After breakfast Mr. Gordon came off to the *Dayspring* for the remainder of his supplies, and Captain Fraser and I accompanied him

on shore, where again we were met by the chief and a crowd of natives, now all deeply interested in us. Mr. Gordon had enjoyed a good night's rest on shore, and felt better, for he had been very weakly with fever on the way to Santo.

MR. GORDON'S PROSPECTS.

He said, from all he had seen he considered himself as safe on Santo as he could be in Glasgow, and apprehended no danger from bad health. The chief and natives assisted to take Mr. Gordon's boat to a place of shelter and safety, after which, at our request, he took us to see his house, which did not appear larger than those around it, and yet it would be about forty feet long, and from sixteen to twenty in width, and the roof from twelve to fourteen feet high. It was supported on twenty-three wood pillars, sixteen of them tastefully carved, eight on each side supporting the roof, and seven in a row in the centre supporting the roof-tree. The side pillars of nearly all their houses were carved after the same fashion, and I have never seen wood of the same kind; it looks more like stone than wood. I counted between sixty and seventy pots, plates, and basins of various sizes in the chief's house; and there were a number of beautifully-carved and polished wood plates and dishes, a quantity of sandal-wood, &c.; after which he got us four coconuts to drink, which appeared to be a rarity, as the trees are tall but dwarfish in appearance, and have little or no fruit. They appeared more plentiful at the south end of the island. He then conducted us all over his township till we arrived at Mr. Gordon's tent, followed by a number of other chiefs, and a great host of men, women, and children. Mr. Gordon expressed himself as delighted with his new field, and with all he had seen of the natives, and that if any necessity arose we were at liberty to leave, as we could do him no more good. Commending him and his work to God's gracious care and guidance, we left, expecting to spend the next day (Sabbath) with him; but after dark it became threatening, and a breeze setting in to the land, the captain was forced to put to sea, as the anchorage is unsafe and without shelter. As another boy that Mr. Gordon had on Erromanga with him teaching him the Santo language, was with Mr. Gordon, he possesses great advantages in opening up this new and most interesting field, in being able to speak to them and teach them from the first. For years he has had a strong desire to open this new field. I have not spent three such happy days on any heathen island, nor seen a more interesting and promising field for a missionary. The multitudes of children, and of healthy active-looking men and women moving