

tend. After the service was over, with but few exceptions the Sabbath was merely a day of recreation with them. When any one died the whole village made a feast in his or her honor. When a man wanted a wife he bought her from her friends for a certain number of pigs. When he was angry with her and wished to send her away, or wanted another woman he demanded back his pigs. Polygamy was the exception. It was very common for a man to beat his wife, and in the event of his beating her in such a brutal manner as to enrage her friends he gave them a pig or more to reconcile them.

Cava was, and is still, drunk to excess. I have often seen them so drunk as scarcely to be able to walk or speak.

#### ERAKOR.

Erakor, being longer in the enjoyment of Gospel light, and some who were amongst the first converts being still alive and exerting a good influence, had not fallen away so much. Still even here many weeds had grown up and were choking the good seed. Here too we found several of the heathen already alluded to. We were surprised to find that here as well as at Epang men and women wore no more clothing than the heathen of the surrounding villages, except when they came to the house of God.

#### DEPOPULATION.

We were greatly disappointed in regard to the population. At both villages there were only a little over 200 natives. They had been very large villages at one time.

#### CHURCH MEMBERS.

At Epang we found eleven church members in good standing; three men and eight women; and at Erakor 32—14 men and 18 women.

#### GOSPELS.

They had the Gospels of Mark and John, and a small hymn-book.

#### MANUAL LABOR.

From the time we began our labors in this field up to the present day, I have had a great deal of manual labor. The mission premises of both villages were very much dilapidated, and the reed churches were in ruins.

Coming to this village was almost like coming to a new station, with the exception of a small plastered house of two rooms. All around the premises had grown up into bush. I am now putting up two more rooms which I got from Sydney.

#### REVIEW—DISCOURAGEMENTS.

We have now been laboring here nearly two years and during that time we have

had our encouragements as well as our discouragements. To see our young men carried away by those wretched "Slavers" after having been under our training for several months, and we had been yearning over them that they might be brought to Christ, is a discouragement not easy to bear. Oh! when will "the wickedness of the wicked come to an end" in this matter. It is discouraging to see several of those whom we baptized, and of whose conversion we had good hope grievously backsliding, and showing no signs of repentance.

#### ENCOURAGEMENTS.

But on the other hand it is cheering to see some following on to know the Lord. We have some old men whose piety is unmistakable, they are evidently ripening for glory. Our school for the children is almost all that we could desire; some of them have very bright intellects.

#### NO OPENING AT ERATOR.

We have been endeavoring to get an opening to the heathen, but so far have been unsuccessful. At Erakor the nearest village to us they seem as much opposed to the Gospel as they were when they murdered a teacher sent to them by Mr. Morrison. They have threatened to do the same again, so as this is their feasting season we think it prudent to wait a little while.

#### BUFA MORE HOPEFUL.

Bufa seems a little more favorable within the last week or two. Sometime ago they forbade us to go amongst them, but we have continued to go and lately we think the darkness is beginning to break.

#### SCHOOLS AND BIBLE CLASS.

I go to Epang every other Sabbath and generally remain a day or two in order to visit the school. Here we have school every morning [Saturday excepted] for the adults, and when they are dismissed for the children. On Wednesday morning we have a Bible Class for church members at the close of the school, in the afternoon prayer-meeting, and at its close our catechumens' class is held.

#### PRINTING OF GENESIS.

I must not forget to inform you that we owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Cosh for superintending the printing of Genesis which he had translated before leaving this field. At the request of the Mission Synod he kindly undertook the task. His time being fully occupied during the day with his pastoral and other work he had to correct the proof sheet at a late hour of the night.

I trust you do not forget us when you draw near the throne of grace. Oh! do