

the New Hebrides. Mr. McNair had, from his infancy, been delicate, having been always troubled with asthma, at times distressingly so, and the committee were not sure about receiving so delicate a man for such an arduous field. On consulting some of the eminent medical men in Edinburgh they, however, gave it as their opinion that the climate of these islands would be rather favourable than otherwise to a complaint of that nature. And this opinion proved to be correct, for Mr. McNair was seldom or never troubled with asthma after coming here; and even when he was suffering under fever and ague, used to say that it was a great improvement on his old complaint. We all left Liverpool together on the 1st of March, 1866. Mr. McNair had been married about a fortnight previously to Miss Mary Galloway, who is now by his death left a widow with an interesting little girl, who was born this day a year ago. We had a long but pleasant voyage to Melbourne. Mr. McNair suffered intensely with the great heat in crossing the line; in fact I never saw him so ill from that time up to within a few weeks of his death.

On reaching the New Hebrides, Mr. McNair chose Erromanga as his field of labour, but before the close of the season, he and his wife were so completely knocked up with fever and ague, that they had to be removed to Aneityum, where they spent the first rainy season, and where Mrs. McNair was confined of her first baby. I also was on Aneityum during that season, and saw them frequently there. They both had a great deal of sickness; their first year in the mission field was truly one of much trial to them. They lost their first child, and had implanted within them the seeds of fever, which were never wholly eradicated. With the return of the *Dayspring* next year Mr. McNair returned to Dillon's Bay, Erromanga, and has remained there more or less ever since.

As a Missionary Mr. McNair was earnest and devoted. He was much liked by the Erromangans, and his loss and the removal of Mrs. McNair will be deeply felt upon that island. Things had changed remarkably for the better there during the last two years; natives were beginning to gather round the premises, and being treated by the Missionary with kindness and consideration, were beginning to exemplify a similar spirit in return.

We all deeply regret the loss of Mr. McNair. He was a man of a very obliging disposition, willing to put himself to inconvenience for the benefit of others. He was a man of a singularly uncomplaining disposition; no one suffered more and said less about it. He was warm-hearted and sincere; his zeal and devotion in his Master's service were intense; when he had scarcely

strength to drag himself out of bed he was at his post in church and school to teach the poor Erromangans the way of life.

On Saturday morning, the 16th of July, Mr. McNair died. He was buried the same afternoon by the side of the grave where the Gordons lie. Mr. Smith, who was formerly carpenter on board the *Dayspring*, had begun wailing at Dillon's Bay;—he made a coffin, and saw him properly interred, and came over to Port Resolution for me on the Tuesday following. On Wednesday morning we started, and spent the night on Aniwa. On Thursday morning Mr. Paton accompanied us, and we arrived the same evening in Dillon's Bay. We found Mrs. McNair in a very composed frame of mind, feeling her trial heavily, but casting her burden on the Lord, resting on the promises and on the tender sympathies of Christ.

Mr. Paton and I built a mound of stones over the grave, and plastered it with lime. We then packed up everything for shipping on board the *Dayspring*, and in a few days started for Aniwa again in the large boat, Mrs. McNair and her baby with us. Mr. Smith accompanied us to take charge of the boat; and after a night upon the water, we arrived at Aniwa in the morning. There I left Mrs. McNair and her little one, under the kind and hospitable roof of Mr. and Mrs. Paton. She intends (D.V.) staying among the islands till the close of the season, going up with the vessel to Melbourne, and thence home.

Beside the grave of the murdered Gordons, by the bank of the stream that was reddened by the blood of Harris and of Williams, under the waving plumes of the cocoa-nut palms, the broad Pacific gleaming in the sunshine close at hand, lies awaiting a glorious resurrection the body of James McNair, as devoted a Missionary, as prayerful a Christian, as sincere a man, as the Church has ever sent into these Southern seas.

I am, Rev. dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

THOMAS NEILSON, JUNR.

REV. P. G. MCGREGOR;

Halifax, Nova-Scotia,

British North America.

Departure of Rev. K. J. Grant

Our readers are aware that Mr. Grant, under directions of the Board of Foreign Missions, visited during the past summer all the congregations of the P. C. L. P. in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. Some time for rest and preparation for his voyage was allowed, which was nearly all occupied by Mr. Grant in volunteer mission work,