

the height of indiscretion. The proposal when first made was stoutly opposed. But the idea took root and grew. At the meeting of the Synod of the aforesaid Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, held in Pictou, N. S., in July, 1884, a missionary board was appointed. In the following year the Board reported in favour of the New Hebrides as a desirable field for missionary effort, and accepted the offer of Mr. John Geddie, minister of Cavendish, Prince Edward Island, to proceed thither as their first missionary. To this field the Nova Scotians have sent twelve ordained missionaries and eleven wives of missionaries, in all twenty-three devoted labourers. Of the twelve, six are not, for God took them. The names of George N. Gordon, and Helen C. Gordon his wife, and James Douglas Gordon, his brother, are enrolled in the list of the noble army of martyrs. But on Aneityum and six other islands of the group—including blood-stained Eromanga—the Sun of Righteousness has risen. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light." Three of the twelve missionaries are at present in the field,—Rev. Joseph Annand on Aneityum; Rev. Hugh A. Robertson on Eromanga, and Rev. J. W. Mackenzie on Efate. They are assisted by a large staff of native teachers, and are meeting with much encouragement. At the date of last report there were 1,120 attending Christian worship and 451 communicants in the three stations.

The Trinidad Mission is also a Nova Scotian enterprise. It was begun in 1867 by the Rev. John Morton, who is still in the field, assisted by Revs. K. J. Grant, J. W. Macleod, and J. K. Wright. The work is entirely for the benefit of the coolie population, numbering about 50,000. These are for the most part natives of India, and the gospel is preached to them in their own language. The work here has been greatly blessed, and has all along received the countenance of liberal aid, financially, from the owners of the estates on which the coolies are employed. The origin of this and the New Hebrides Mission explains the reason for the existence of two Foreign Mission Boards in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. So deeply interested were the people of the eastern section in these missions which they had initiated and supported

for many years, any proposal to take them out of their hands would have been resented as an interference with their "vested rights" and would certainly have prevented the union from being accomplished. But the intervening years have widened our scope of vision. The people in the West are beginning to take as much interest in these missions as those in the East, while the latter are manifesting a corresponding interest in our Formosa Mission which originated in the West. In Trinidad forty schools are conducted under the superintendence of the missionaries. In these there are 1,791 scholars receiving Christian instruction. The total expenses of the mission last year were about \$19,910; of this amount \$8,000 from Canada, the remainder from the owners of estates, from the government, and from the native churches. The number of communicants in the four stations is 215.

The western section of the Church, for the purposes of this inquiry, is represented by the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario. The Mission Board has its headquarters at Toronto. It has under its care the missions to the Indians in the Northwest, the mission to Formosa, and that to Central India. The first two had their beginning, prior to the union, in that branch of the Church which was in sympathy with the Free Church of Scotland and which was organized in 1844. Before instituting any missions of its own this Church began, in 1847, to collect money from its congregations for foreign missions, which was handed over from year to year to the Foreign Mission Committee of the Free Church of Scotland. The first direct effort to establish a mission of its own was in 1856—shortly after the visit of Dr. Duff to this country—when the Rev. Jas. Stevenson, of Tullybody, Scotland, was engaged by the "Presbyterian Church of Canada" to go as its first missionary to India. He accordingly proceeded to Bankoorah, about one hundred and twenty miles from Calcutta, where he entered upon the study of Bengali and opened a school for such of the natives as had any acquaintance with the English language. But the mission was destined to be short-lived. Such was the unsettled state of the country at that time, it was unsafe for Europeans to remain at Bankoorah, and to complete their misfortunes a virulent type of Asiatic cholera broke out. Acting