

TO BE STUDIED.

The present number of the RECORD contains 48 pages, instead of the usual 32. It is full freighted with Reports laid before Synod, and the action of Synod on all subjects of importance. We hope our readers will carefully peruse the reports, and give special attention to the deliverances of Synod. The Statistical Report shows what the testimony of figures is regarding our work as a Church. The Educational Report treats of an absorbing public question with which our people must deal intelligently and irrespective of party politics. The Acadian Mission Report shows how ripe, how inviting the field is, and how widely open stands the door. The Anti-gonish Riot is plainly portrayed in the Presbytery of Pictou's Statement: the matter is not yet concluded. The censure passed upon the authorities is very grave, and cannot be disregarded. The subject of Systematic Beneficence is ably presented by the Committee, and deserves the continued attention of the Church. The Temperance Report is thoroughly readable and contains very startling facts. Sabbath observance to be properly secured demands constant vigilance. The Report on the State of Religion is in effect a report on the health of the Church; all should study it. The Supplementing Committee's Report is eloquent with figures, some of which are very melancholy. The whole number is rich with important facts and thoughts bearing on the Church's life and work. Read, think; ask, what, in view of these facts—these thoughts, what is present duty?

THE NEW HEBRIDES MISSION FIELD.

Each field of labour has its own difficulties. The pastor of a Christian congregation in a Christian land has his difficulties, and so has the congregational missionary, whose duty it is to seek out those who have fallen from ordinances. The missionary whose field of labour is India, with its teeming millions, civilisation and heathen literature has difficulties; but his difficulties are of a very different kind from those of the missionary who is located among heathen and savage tribes, who have no

literature, and who do not even possess a written language.

In the language of Clarkson, "The shepherd of Horeb, when commissioned with a message to his people, asks by what name he should represent Jehovah to the inquiring Israelites. He is told to make Him known to them as the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob. He had thus a key furnished him to their understandings and hearts, whereby he might unlock their secret consciousness. This is just what is wanted by the missionary to the class of heathen now treated off." This, brethren, is our position.

One difficulty we encounter in our work is the low state of moral degradation to which our people have sunk. We do not wait now to refer to their modes of worship. The most abominable heathen practices follow them from the day of their birth till the earth or sea has closed over their remains. One cannot think without a shudder of the sensuality and lust which are manifested in their daily conduct. Subjects regarding which the Apostle to the Gentiles saith, "Let it not be once named among you," are freely talked about; yea, the most effectual means are taken to initiate the young into all the vices of their elders. Public opinion, instead of frowning upon vice, fosters and encourages it. Much of the evil is visible to any one who may take even the most hasty glance at their condition; but much of it is only to be known after lengthened examination. If some of us, after coming into personal contact with heathenism for many years, are yet compelled to confess that we are continually discovering darker traits in their character, need we be surprised if our supporters, who have not enjoyed our opportunities of forming a correct estimate, should entertain very erroneous opinions regarding this one great difficulty with which we have to deal. Nor can we do much to give them a more correct impression, for in regard to much of their conduct the tongue must be silent. We refer to cannibalism, strangulation of widows, burying of new-born infants, adultery, fornication, and such like; but these are but indications of the debasement of their whole nature, which is daily manifested in their every word and action. To those alone who have formed a correct estimate of the depths of heathenism, is it possible to form a proper idea of the results that have been attained. You look at some breakwater which rises only a few feet above the surface of the surrounding water, and you wonder at the vast sums of money which have been expended in its erection, but you have lost sight of the fact that its foundations are laid far down in the depths of the sea.

Another serious drawback in the oncar-