

whole group is much more nearly completed than it is in most of the other mission fields of the church.

(2.) The churches in Australia and New Zealand are strong and growing. They now support more than half the missionaries there. The last F. M. report gives eight out of the thirteen missionaries in the group as from these churches; and now they are sending three more. One or two of these may leave, but they will now have at least nine or ten, and as their strength increases, they should, ere very long, be able to give the gospel to the whole group.

(3.) The New Hebrides is comparatively near to these churches and in their natural field.

(4.) It is on the opposite side of the world from us. When the missionaries leave the islands on furlough, they go first to Australia. Their missionaries are then at home. Ours, after getting there, have their journey only begun. They have to go around the world after that, both Robertson and Annand coming from Australia by Suez and Britain, and returning by San Francisco. Is it an economical use either of time or money, to send more men at this additional heavy expense to the other side of the world, when that work lies to the hand of others, in their natural field, and they are making steady progress in overtaking it.

(5.) There are other fields nearer home. There are the Indian tribes of the North West which need the gospel as much as the Indians of the Antipodes. They are at our doors. We do not have to go to the other side of the globe to reach them. The churches of this Dominion are wholly responsible for them: And apart from all this, in our own interests, as a country, they must be evangelized as soon as possible. Besides this there is in South America a vast mission field which we have just touched, where hungry millions are calling for the Bread of Life.

In view of all these facts it is a question that must be considered, whether it is wise, even if the Funds admitted it, to pass by such pressing calls from fields lying comparatively near, and looking naturally to us for help, and where there remains more to be done than in the New Hebrides, and send more men to the other side of the world to do a work that lies to the hand of the Australasian churches and in which they are making such good

progress.

Besides these general questions to be considered there are two special ones that are elements in the case at the present time.

(1.) There is Mr. Annand's location. If it were a matter of necessity that he should settle in Santo, that would be a reason in favor of sending another, and this has probably been the reason why many would have liked that a fourth missionary should be appointed now. If, however, there is no necessity for his going there, that reason is taken away, and the question simply becomes one of the advisability of sending a fourth missionary to the New Hebrides. That there is no necessity for going to Santo, is seen from the fact that the F. M. committee has left it entirely with himself and the Mission Synod. It is seen further from the fact that the Mission Synod has said that it is not prepared to select a station, but that Mr. Annand's selection is to be subject to its approval, and Mr. Annand himself says that "the missionary selects his own station." It is seen further from the fact that in the minutes of the Mission Synod published in the *Presbyterian Review* of Dec. 2nd, the Synod there names four other places from which expected missionaries may choose. viz.: Malekula, Ambrim, Epi, and Pama. Of the three new missionaries sent this year from the Australian churches, one had his station appointed in Malekula, apart from these four. It is plain that after the other two missionaries select their stations, there will be two empty places remaining. These two men are likely to be settled on Ambrim and Malekula, so that there will remain open for Mr. Annand at least two places which the Synod has named as needing missionaries, the North of Epi, with Mr. Fraser of the Presbyterian church of Tasmania on the South, and Pama, one of the smaller islands in which there is no other missionary. If Mr. Annand had another missionary with him it might be well to occupy Santo. If he go alone he has the choice of a smaller island by himself or a large island with another missionary. The necessity for Mr. Annand going alone to Santo as will thus be seen, does not weigh in the case, because that necessity does not exist. The question is, is it better that he should go out alone and choose one of these other fields where missionaries are needed, if he will, or that