

they became thieves, robbers, murderers, and worse, if worse were possible, —treacherous, foul, cruel, revelling in nameless vices, flinging shame upon the very name of man.

#### THE FIRST CANADIAN MISSIONARY.

John Geddie, whose name like that of John Williams is forever associated with the New Hebrides Mission, was born at Banff, Scotland, April 10th, 1815. When John was but a year old his parents moved to Pictou, Nova Scotia. He was an only son, and during a severe illness his parents devoted their little babe to work as a missionary among the heathen. The parental vow was kept a profound secret till after the son had entered upon his chosen career. The boy was educated at Pictou—in the Grammar School, the Academy, and in the Theological classes taught by Dr. Thomas M'Culloch. He was licensed to preach May 2nd, 1837. Before he had completed his course, he had solemnly made up his mind to devote his life to mission work among the heathen.

In 1845 the Board of Missions of the Nova Scotia Presbyterian Church reported joyfully to the Synod that they had received \$750, which with \$250 from the previous year made \$1,000. They considered this sufficient to warrant the appointment of one missionary. The Synod, by a majority of *one vote*, authorized the Board to proceed to select a field and call a missionary. New Caledonia, a large island not far from the New Hebrides, was the field first selected; and Rev. John Geddie was chosen first missionary. Mr. Geddie set himself with characteristic energy to prepare for his life work. At Pictou, 3rd November, 1846, the designation services took place—the first in the history of Presbyterianism in Canada.

In those days to travel from Prince Edward Island or Nova Scotia to the New Hebrides meant much time, toil, exposure to countless hardships and deadly perils. Mr. Geddie had not then the benefit of one mile by railway or one league by steamer. Eight tempestuous winter days were spent between Halifax and Boston. In a small American whaler our missionaries doubled Cape Horn and reached the Sandwich Islands. For three long weeks their little brig battled for life with the tremendous storms at the Cape; and their case often seemed hopeless; but at length they reached sunny seas and favoring breezes, and in 170 days from New England found themselves the happy guests of the American Board's missionaries at Honolulu. They had sailed over 19,000 miles.

From the Sandwich Islands Mr. Geddie obtained a passage, thirty-eight days to Samoa, where he had much happy intercourse with the London Missionary Society's agents, with whom he planned his future cam-