

whole of the Bible, and could read the word of God in their own tongue. The Sabbath was observed and great attention was paid to family religion. The schools were attended by persons of every age and sex, being taught by native teachers. The instruction rested on a Scripture basis. The question of uniting religious and secular training had ever been mooted among them.—The school-book was a simple one, illustrating the truths of Christianity. A great revolution had also taken place in the social habits of the people. Polygamy prevailed to a great extent, the marriage tie was scarcely known among them, and it was the practice for husbands to sell their wives. They were also making great progress in other ways. As they became more civilized their wants increased and gave rise to habits of industry. The surplus of their produce was sold to trading vessels for clothing, &c. On that one little Island there was more business carried on than in all the surrounding Islands where the people were involved in darkness. The people a short time ago commenced the cultivation of cotton, which promised to be very successful. The first load of it was shipped a few weeks ago. There was a great desire among the natives to carry the Gospel to the Islands around them. This was the true spirit of christianity. It was a bad evidence of the state of religion in any church when they manifested no concern for the ignorant around them. The Islanders were now accustomed to make contributions for missionary purposes, and a number of them had gone out as missionaries to other Islands. (Hear) When he received an application from the surrounding Islands for a Christian teacher, he generally made it known on the Sabbath before to the congregation, and he had seldom to ask the question as to who would go, but rather whom should be sent, some of the high chiefs of the Islands having sacrificed all their property and gone to the other Islands. Native agency was most important; a great deal had to be done by their own people under the guidance of Christian missionaries.

Mr. Geddie next alluded to the Island Eromanga, where Mr. Williams fell, and where Mr. and Mrs. Gordon were cut off. This act was committed from ignorance and superstition, the people believing that the missionary was the cause of a disease which was sweeping them off. This put a stop to missionary operations there for a time, but they were soon resumed, and a reaction had taken place in favour of christianity. When the mission vessel touched there a few months ago they found a church erected on the spot where Williams fell, the congregation numbering 120. The natives were also building four other churches. Another missionary had also been sent there. Then there were native teachers labouring on other Islands and fast preparing the way for Christian missionaries. There were missionaries or native teachers on six of the Islands of the New Hebrides group, but the most important had never been visited for missionary purposes. It would require fifty missionaries to reach them, and he was now looking for them. Some years after the work was commenced, other missionaries were sent out from the Church of Scotland, and he believed two others were preparing to accompany him back. Nothing would rejoice him more than to welcome missionaries from the Presbyterian Church of Canada in these distant Islands. (Hear, hear.) There was room for all these. In conclusion he would commend the New Hebrides Mission to their sympathies and their prayers. A great drawback was the want of men. The present agency was altogether inadequate to the work before them. The harvest was great but the laborers few. Pray God therefore that he will send laborers into the harvest. One of his objects in coming here was to recruit his own and his wife's health, but his principal object was to make an appeal for missionary aid; for one or more missionaries from this Church. He would now in the name of his missionary brethren on those Islands ask of this Synod and Presbyterian Church of Canada to send forth one or more missionaries to aid in the cause of God on these Islands. There was perhaps no part of the heathen world where the effect of the fall might be seen in such unmitigated form as on these Islands. Human nature appeared there in its most abominable