

his native land—there to renew former acquaintance, and rejoin his children, that have been so long separate from parental oversight.

By the latest correspondence, (March 24th) we learn that he had reached Melbourne in his homeward voyage; and that, after enjoying sweet fellowship with outgoing missionaries, and many opportunities of commending the Mission to the favour of the Australian Churches, he had taken passage in a sailing vessel for Liverpool. He advisedly preferred this conveyance, which he anticipated would occupy about 80 or 90 days, with the view of recruiting his health by the retirement and rest of a lengthened voyage. In the passage from the Islands to Australia, it pleased the all-wise and all-gracious Providence of that Jehovah, whose way is in the sea—whose path is in the waters—and whose footsteps are not known—to take from our beloved friends their youngest son, a child of robust health and of most winning manners, after a few days' illness. The sympathies of the Church at large will no doubt find free expression at this sad tale of bereavement; and if the afflicted parents can find any consolation in the fact that many Christian hearts have wept with them, *this consolation* is at hand in large measure. Another trying dispensation has befallen the Mission family in the unexpected illness of Lathella's wife in Melbourne, whither they had both come with a view to accompany them to Nova Scotia. On medical consultation, it was found necessary to order the return, to the Islands, of both the chief and his wife. The disappointment thus occasioned will be felt keenly by the Church not more than by Mr. and Mrs. Geddie, who had promised themselves much comfort in the company of these highly interesting, and intelligent converts. To have seen, side by side with our venerated missionary in Church Courts, on the platform, or in the social circle, one of the elders, and the principal chief of Aneiteum, would have made the hearts of us all leap for joy. But when we reflect that Mr. Inglis' anxieties were greatly excited by William's sickness, and the re-

turn of the whole party much and painfully hastened thereby, our regret for Lathella's return should be greatly abated, if not wholly removed. It will be, of course, for this Synod to determine how long Mr. Geddie shall remain in Nova Scotia, and how he shall be employed during his stay. Your Board, however, would earnestly counsel a lengthened period of home residence, for Mr. and Mrs. Geddie, to recruit body and mind from the incessant labours, the wear and tear of sixteen years active missionary life, and well nigh eighteen years' absence from Nova Scotia. The advantage of giving some Synodical deliberance on the period to be spent at home, but still more as to the manner in which the missionary's time is to be occupied, at once, will be apparent when it is remembered that every section of the Church, and each Congregation will very anxiously anticipate a course of almost household visitation, from their first and most successful missionary. If ample time be not allowed for this general visitation, his return to Nova Scotia will be no season of retirement, and his physical energies will not be restored. Moreover, the work of translating the Scriptures, in which Mr. Geddie has all along been chiefly employed, may go forward in this country almost as well as at Aneiteum.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, let us contemplate the cheering prospects opening on our outgoing missionaries. Erromanga rises to view, with its band of native teachers and 200 attendants on their Sabbath services: while the cruel instigator of Mr. Gordon's murder is seen, now pleading for his life, and fain to flee to a distant part of the Island from the dreaded vengeance of the Christian party. We see, also, Sandwich Island or Fate, with its teeming population, and still more with its infant Church,—the fruit of the self-denying labours of native teachers, now waiting to welcome a missionary to a Christian home and highly promising field of usefulness. Tanna, too, may be discerned, displaying that repentant spirit which will, in due season, win back the missionary labour it once threw from its bosom in the wilderness.