

## THE BOOK PAGE

The centenary year of the birth, in the Scottish village of Banff, of Dr. John Geddie, the first foreign missionary of our church, and the first foreign missionary to be sent by any church in a British colony, is a fitting occasion for the issuing of a new life of the intrepid pioneer. The task of preparing this biography has been undertaken by Rev. Professor James W. Falconer, D.D., of the Presbyterian College, Halifax, N.S., who, in **John Geddie: Hero of the New Hebrides**, has given us a very useful book. Such a book was the more needed because the life of Dr. Geddie by Rev. Dr. George Patterson is now out of print. Professor Falconer's account of his hero makes large use of Dr. Patterson's book, but brings the story of mission work in the New Hebrides begun by Dr. Geddie down to the final withdrawal of our church from that field last year on the death of Dr. H. A. Robertson of Erromanga, after forty years of service on the islands along with Dr. J. W. McKenzie, who also died in 1914, and of Dr. Annand, who is spending the evening of his life in Nova Scotia. The field is now in the care of the more adjacent Australia and New Zealand churches. It is interesting to note that Mrs. Geddie, whose vivid personality impressed itself on all who knew her and who shared unstintingly in her husband's labors, is still living in Geelong, Australia, at a very advanced age and is still active and interested in missions. Surely in the memory of Mrs. Geddie and of the family relatives and acquaintances in the provinces by the sea, there must be many reminiscences of Dr. Geddie and his work which, if they were gathered

up, would make a book of great interest, supplementary to Professor Falconer's timely volume. (Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, Toronto, 354 pages, 25c. cloth, profusely illustrated.)

The \$100,000 raised at a great fete held in Petrograd on the 27th of August last, to be given to the first Russian soldier to enter Berlin, still lacks a claimant. The great war seems, indeed, only fairly begun. It is evidently to be of very long duration. All the more useful, therefore, will such a Series as **Nelson's History of the War**, by John Buchan, Volumes I. and II. of which (Thomas Nelson and Sons, Toronto, Vol. I., 253 pages, 23 maps; Vol. II., 242 pages, 19 maps, 25c. per volume) have appeared. These tell the story from the outbreak of the war down to the battles of the Marne. Succeeding volumes, issued at monthly intervals, will continue the narrative. Of course, no final, or even complete, so-far-as-it-goes history of the war is as yet possible; but the author has carefully sifted the facts and has given a concise, clear, and admirably readable account of the events leading up to the outbreak, and of the strength of the opponents and the amazing doings in its opening stage in the various nations. The maps are luminous. The military glossary at the end of Vol. I.—which explains some of the rather confusing military terms—is decidedly useful. It would look like a good investment to start in with these first volumes of the Nelson History of the War, and to follow the series through.

In these days, when the shadow of war lies on every path, there is great need of books that are hopeful and

# JOHN GEDDIE

(Born April 10th, 1815. Died Dec. 14th, 1872)

**HERO OF THE NEW HEBRIDES**

**By Rev. Prof. JAMES W. FALCONER, D.D.**  
Presbyterian College, Halifax, N. S.

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A most readable account of the life of the first Canadian Presbyterian Foreign Missionary and of his truly apostolic labors among the cannibals of the New Hebrides Islands. Well illustrated.

"The style of his (Prof. Falconer's) new book flows so evenly and so lucidly, that the reader forgets he is reading a book and imagines he is in the New Hebrides experiencing the hopes, the trials, and the triumphs of one of the most wonderful missionary careers in the history of the Church. The tale moves like a romance."—Clarence Mackinnon, D.D.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to Prof. J. W. Falconer for putting within reach of all, in so brief and readable a form, the story of John Geddie's life and work."—Alfred Gandier, D.D.

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