

An appeal has been made to them and two answers have been received, both of which are encouraging. The people of New Zealand have promised to aid the mission by money at present, and express a hope that the time is not far distant when they shall have missionaries of their own among us. The Rev R. Hamilton of Melbourne transmits the following resolution passed by the Presbytery with which he is connected,—“After deliberation it was agreed to request the moderator to reply expressing sympathy with those brethren in their labors and informing them that the subject of their communication is being submitted to the prayerful consideration of the respective congregations within the bounds.” Mr Hamilton adds, “I may state that personally I should have liked a resolution that would have been more pointed and encouraging and more expressive of definite and immediate action. Indeed I was in great hopes that the fair congregations would have undertaken at once the support of a missionary among them.” We hope to hear from other quarters in due time. This group will require between 40 and 50 missionaries which is more than we and our friends in Scotland are likely to be able to furnish, and it is surely our duty to call to our aid others who preach the same gospel as ourselves. It will be clear gain to the cause of missions also if we can enlist the aid of those already unpledged to the work. We are I think in an especial manner called on to do what we can to open up this group for missionary enterprise, as we are on the spot, know the circumstances of the islands, and can operate on them with more advantage than others.

LARGER VESSEL NEEDED.

In the event of our request being granted we would require a good vessel to stand the ravages of this destructible climate, and neatly fitted up as such vessels are often inspected by persons of all classes. She would require to be a good sailer as much of her voyages will be among the islands where the safety of a vessel often depends on her sailing qualities. Her accommodation should be large as she would often have mission families and teachers on board. Much of her usefulness would also depend on her having a good captain who would take a deep interest in our work. She would require to be under the direction of the whole body of missionaries, as they only are in circumstances to regulate her movements. Her probable work would be a voyage round the New Hebrides and Loyalty Island, during the months of May, June, and July. Some time during the months of August and September the missionaries might be collected at some central spot to hold their annual conference, and then taken home to their own stations. During the months of January, February, March, and April a voyage might be made to the neighboring colonies with a missionary on board to plead the cause of missions, and also to bring back missionary supplies.

None will dispute the value of such a vessel to the mission, the only question for consideration is how she is to be procured and maintained. There would not I think be much difficulty in raising the amount necessary for her purchase. The children of our own and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland would furnish the means for this purpose if appealed to. The children of the latter church when Mr Inglis appealed to them last year for money to assist in repairing the “John Williams” raised £600 sterling; they would surely raise an equal, if not larger amount to purchase a vessel of their own. And it is quite probable that the children of our own church would not be overdone by those in Scotland who are not half their number. We are also making an appeal to the Presbyterian children of the neighboring colonies and we expect something from that quarter, though the amount may not be much, as we are less known to each other than we expect to be, and I may add that the children of Aneiteum have their little plantations of arrowroot all over the island that they also may have a share in the vessel. We have prepared an address on the subject of a missionary vessel and instructed Mr Murray to send copies of it to every Presbyterian congregation in the neighboring colonies. He will also send printed copies of the address from Sydney to Scotland and Nova Scotia. If it is approved of you had better get it reprinted for circulation.

The maintenance of the vessel is a more serious matter than her purchase, as a spasmodic effort will do the latter, whereas the former is a continuous thing. From persons competent to judge of such matters we are told that £600 sterling would be necessary for the support annually of the vessel we require. But our