

## XII.

### ON FURLOUGH.

It is now a recognized rule of Mission Boards that missionaries be granted leave of absence every six or seven years, a rule which has been found to be beneficial, not only to the missionary, but also to the home Church, which receives inspiration from the narratives of the progress of the Kingdom. But fifteen years had now passed without any change of climate or environment on the part of Mr. Geddie. The Board had frequently suggested to him the wisdom of a rest, but hitherto he refrained from yielding to their desires. In 1863, however, he decided to follow the advice of his brethren. On the eve of his departure he writes:

“I regret to say that we feel seriously the effect of a long residence in a climate by no means salubrious. You will not be surprised to hear that we feel much at the prospect of leaving a spot where we have spent so important a period of our lives, and which has been the scene of many trials and of many joys. The prospect of prolonged usefulness is our chief inducement to leave, and it is our unalterable purpose to return, if spared, as soon as God in His providence shall permit. We leave at a