

Presbyterian Church of New South Wales. In this change there is no loss to the general mission, but rather a gain, as another church becomes thus more fully committed to the work, being now represented on the field by a missionary of its own.

DEATH OF REV. D. MORRISON.

The year did not close without a real loss, in the removal by death, of Rev. Donald Morrison, the devoted missionary of Erakor on Fate. For this stroke the church was in some measure prepared, and the event was not only feared but fully expected by the Board. Yet the call came suddenly at the last. Mr. Morrison had presided at the annual conference of the brethren held on the 17th of May, at Aneicahut, in Aneiteum.

Prior to this meeting he had visited his former station, and was received with every mark of deep affection. All crowded around him and Mrs. Morrison, to greet them. Some wept and some gave utterance to their joy in laughter. He re-visited them again after the May meeting, and tried to preach to them on the congenial topic of "the Comforter whom Jesus promised to send after his departure." He soon learned that the excitement and the effort were too much, and began to prepare for his departure. It is just a year and a week since our dear brother and his companion completed their last few weeks of toil on Fate, and with stricken hearts bade farewell to the sorrowing people whom he at least was to see no more. Returning to Aneiteum in the end of June, they sailed in the *Dayspring* for New Zealand in July. In August he was worse and spoke of the visible progress of his disease. On Sept. 23rd, he records that though miserable for for the month past he was then better, but in one month from that date he was called home. Rev. George Brown, of Onahunga, who was with him in his last illness, has written that his end was peace, perfect peace. He died rejoicing in his Saviour, exclaiming, O I am happy, happy—all is peace, Glory be to the blessed Saviour who hath given me the victory. His remains were followed to the grave by many members of the Presbytery, and lie in the Presbyterian Cemetery of Auckland.

The Board have adopted and recorded the following Minute, expressing their view of the character, worth and work of our departed brother:

MINUTE.

"In recording the death of the Rev. Donald Morrison, the Board while bowing to the Will of God, with profound submission, would bear testimony to the Christian worth of their departed brother, and their sense of the great loss which the mission has sustained by his early removal.

The Board cannot forget how bravely their departed missionary came to the front, at a time when death had made ominous gaps in the ranks of the New Hebridean missionaries, and they would record with gratitude how in visitation of the churches, in the voyage to his destination, in intercourse with his missionary brethren, and in his work at Erakor in Fate, he commended himself to all as being truly a man of God, and faithful to his high commission as an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When disabled by sickness and constrained reluctantly to remove from the post which he had so faithfully occupied, he was enabled to bow to the Master's will, and while longing for active service he patiently endured, not only the suffering, but the inaction of years still more difficult to bear.

In his early removal from his station, we hear a new summons to prompt and active service while we have strength to labour, and in his cheerful endurance of hardness as a good soldier of the cross, and in his peaceful and triumphant death, we see the power of Heavenly Grace, to sustain in the conflict and to give the final victory.

The Board desire to express their deep sympathy for Mrs. Morrison and her orphan boy, and for the infant church at Erakor, in their bereavement, and would earnestly pray that He, at whose summons their beloved brother has been called away, may manifest Himself as the husband of the widow, the father of the fatherless, and the shepherd and comforter of the scattered flock in the dark and cloudy day."

CHANGE IN DR. GEDDIE'S WORK.

Another step in this process of disintegration is the fact that the health of Dr. and Mrs. Geddie, (and especially of the latter) requires a partial withdrawal from the islands, and from steady mission work. This fact came to the notice of the Board simultaneously by letter from the Dr. himself, and by the following resolutions of the Annual Council:

"Dr. Geddie having requested for himself and family to go to the Australian Colonies at the close of the year, on account of the state of Mrs. Geddie's health and other circumstances, it was resolved, that this meeting express their sympathy with him and his family, grant the request, and further instruct Dr. Geddie to do all in his power to promote the interest of the mission during said visit.

"It was agreed that Dr. Geddie on his return next year spend as much of his time as possible, in sailing in the *Dayspring*, procuring, locating and superintending teachers, more particularly on the heathen islands, provided the church in Nova Scotia be agreeable to such an arrangement."

The Board felt that the proposed change involved the Dr.'s withdrawal from the direct work of conducting and personally superintending the mission at Aneicahut on Aneiteum, and deeply regretted their inability to place a well known and well qualified man in the Dr.'s place, thus re-