

with the migratory habits of seamen, it will not appear strange, that having seen and enjoyed the novelty and romance of the mission, they would desire to enter other services, or return home. The articles signed by the crew were unusually severe in their restrictions, and as the vessel had visited other ports in Australia than those specified in the articles, the crew asserted their right to withdraw, while the captain considered it prudent to permit their withdrawal. English seamen were immediately found to supply the place of those who left, and five natives were on board in course of training, and were expected soon to man the vessel, with the exception of officers and steward. Any serious disappointment that has been felt by the church in the apparent instability of the crew is thus seen to be not at all justified by the facts, and any fears that may have been entertained for the safety and usefulness of the vessel, quite groundless. The recent visit of the *Dayspring* to different ports of Australia has not excited the enthusiasm of her first visits, and yet most generous contributions have been obtained for her maintenance. The only subject of serious anxiety with your Board has been the foreign sources of supply for her future support. On this point, however, recent correspondence has greatly relieved them. The proposal on the part of Australian churches to undertake the support of missionaries on their own account, will secure the steady support of the mission vessel, in due proportion. By recent intelligence we are informed that the Ship Committee in Sydney, which secured large contributions for the *Dayspring* has been discharged, or rather has resolved itself into a Mission Committee, with two objects in view, "to aid the mission, and to assist in supporting the vessel." From our coadjutors in Scotland, we have received and have approved the proposal that the support of the mission ship be henceforth settled on the permanent basis of equal contribution from four churches. The highest estimate of annual expenditure has been stated at £1000 stg., thus giving £250 each to be supplied by the Presbyterian and Congregationalist churches in Australia, and £250 each by

the churches in Scotland and Nova Scotia. Your Board would cordially recommend the adoption of this basis by Synod, as altogether equitable and practicable, under a well arranged plan for enlisting the active and continued support of the children of the respective churches.

In his letter to the Secretary of your Board, Dr. Steele, Secretary to the New South Wales Auxiliary to the New Hebrides Mission, says, "There are some also so sanguine as to expect the Australian colonies to keep the mission ship afloat. I do not share this expectation, nor do I at present desire it, as I think it will be better for us to have one or more missionaries to engage our christian interest in evangelistic enterprise, and draw forth our liberality. I am also of opinion that if the children of your church, as well as of the Reformed Presbyterian church in Scotland, took an interest in providing for the *Dayspring*, it would do much to deepen the attachment of all to the missionary work. We all felt when the ship arrived after the first voyage that she was well equipped for the work, and very ably commanded by Capt. Frazer. But there was not an arrangement to provide means to enable the Captain to meet his outlay. This had been a great oversight, and led to much embarrassment."

From this statement it will appear that an Australian agency has become an immediate necessity. The agent of the London Missionary Society can no longer overtake the direction of financial accounts with our missionaries. Your Board would therefore recommend Synod to authorize the paid agency at Sydney to transact all the business connected with the disbursements required for missionaries, and vessel.

#### JEWISH MISSION.

In accordance with the decision of Synod, your Board have continued to keep the subject of a Jewish Mission before the church, and the result of their counsels and arrangements in this important matter have, in part, been already brought before the church. By correspondence with Dr. Dale, Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions in connection with the United Presbyterian Church, U. S., the