

THE
Home and Foreign Record

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

MAY, 1873.

THE GEDDIE MEMORIAL FUND.

Immediately after the intelligence was received of Dr. Geddie's illness, the thought which had been previously entertained in some minds, was *brought out*, of a testimonial to his worth and work from the Church. The idea was welcomed, and the circumstances of the case pointing naturally to a money testimonial, \$5000 and subsequently \$6000 were named. It was thought by many, and more especially when news of the Doctor's death arrived, that in unison with the original object a fund might be commenced, the annual proceeds of which being primarily for the benefit of Mrs. Geddie and family, might ultimately aid other widows and orphans of missionaries. It was thus proposed by means of the "Geddie Memorial Fund" to connect Dr. Geddie's name and memory with the Church's care and provision for the widows and orphans of the Missionary for years to come. These two objects are combined in the contemplated Memorial Fund, respecting which full information has been sent to all the Ministers and Sessions of the Body by circular. In that brief document the facts are simply stated, and the congregations are left to respond as their convictions and affections may dictate.

The fund is intended first for the benefit of Mrs. Geddie, and were it exclusively for this, the object were worthy of enthusiastic support. Dr. Steel, in his last letter, says, "Probably your Board may in consideration of Dr. Geddie's long and offi-

cient services allow Mrs. Geddie a pension to aid the benefits from the Widows' Fund. It will need no pleading of mine to induce the Board, who know him and his services better than I, to do what is Christian and right. Having had his family to bring up and educate, and having had a small salary, Dr. Geddie could not make any provision for the future. But as he had so kind a care for orphans on the islands, he could leave his own fatherless ones to the kind care of the Church he loved and served so well."

But the Nova Scotia Church at least knew not only "him and his services," but *her and her services* for a quarter of a century in the high places of heathendom, and that she was a missionary as devoted and heroic as ever laboured in the New Hebrides. And there is not a man of true Christian spirit acquainted with the history of the Mission who would not say that she has the same right to an honourable support, that Dr. Geddie would have had, were he now living. Both for her own and her husband's sake, whose toils and dangers she shared so long and so faithfully, the Church owes her this debt of gratitude, and will cheerfully pay it, and the proposed method is probably more agreeable to her feelings than a payment from the funds of the Board raised for mission purposes generally.

The ultimate application of the funds is germane to the original object, worthy of Dr. Geddie's name, and honourable to the Church, which must meet its duty in this