

tinue to plead that the arm of the Lord may be revealed amongst us. I know that some good friends are remembering this field at the throne of grace, or we would not have so much to encourage."

THREE QUESTIONS.

Three practical references to Synod will close this part of the subject.

First. Will the Synod authorize the Board to invite a Missionary to offer for Couva should they on farther consideration think it feasible?

Secondly. What answer will the Synod give to the joint reference of the Missionaries to the Board on the subject of baptizing Coolie children, who so far as instruction is concerned are given up to the Missionaries. The Missionaries are prepared to baptize unless the Board or Synod send a prohibition. Referred to Synod by the Board.

Thirdly. The School at Iere has been supported for another year with no expense to the Board; and during the past year an addition was made to the Mission House and all expenses met. The Board would submit the bills, and ask if it is the Synod's will to express thanks for the liberality of the parties thus contributing. With the exception of \$40 from the St. John Church Halifax Juvenile Missionary Society, all has been funded in Trinidad.

NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

The year past cannot be regarded as one of progress in the New Hebrides, so far as this church is concerned. Our first adverse intelligence was that the blank left by the death of the faithful Morrison would not be filled up in 1870, as we had expected, by Mr. Blue; and as this intelligence did not reach us till last July, there was not time left to make needful inquiry, to call, and go through all the necessary steps so as to have a man sent away in time to join the Dayspring in 1871. Nor had we then any offer or knowledge of a brother having both qualifications and readiness to go. We indeed commenced a correspondence and found one willing, but debarred by a want of adaptability to the climate. While thus waiting, the painful news came of the death of Mr. McNair, of Erromanga, and as it had been previously arranged that Dr. Geddie should return to Australia, to remain there for a year, the Board felt humiliated and grieved that the Mission field would for one season be left without a man to represent the Church of the Lower Provinces. When Dr. Geddie did go, however, Mr. and Mrs. Goodwill from these same Maritime Provinces, and from a sister church, were at hand and willing to occupy the ground till the Doctor's return, and we trust that the next voyage of

the Dayspring will make up for the deficiency of the past two years.

The affecting details of Mr. McNair's removal from his scene of labour on earth, so fully and touchingly given first by Mr. Neilson and next by Mrs. McNair, having been read with painful interest by all who hear this report, it only remains for the Board to lay before Synod the minute in which they express their sense of Mr. McNair's worth, and of the loss sustained by this Church and Mission by his removal, and their sympathy for his bereaved wife.

MINUTE RESPECTING MR. MCNAIR.

"The Board having heard with profound sorrow of the death of Rev. John McNair, of Erromanga, desire to record the high opinion which they have formed of his personal character, as well as of his qualifications for and diligence in Missionary work. By his removal they feel that the Mission has sustained a heavy blow, while all its friends mourn the loss of a courageous, faithful and devoted servant of Christ. They are comforted, however, with the assurance that for him "to depart and to be with Jesus was far better;" and while acknowledging this the second stroke which the Mission has sustained within a short time, they yet feel called to bow with full resignation, saying, "the will of the Lord be done."

"The Board desire to express deep sympathy with Mrs. McNair in her great bereavement, and their admiration of her heroic conduct during her residence on the Mission field, and more especially in the trying circumstances in which she was placed by the sickness and death of her beloved husband, far away from "Home," and the loving sympathies of dear friends."

"The Board would at the same time express their hope that this church, which has been so often tried by the death of its New Hebridean Missionaries, may abound in prayer that the Holy Spirit may qualify and send forth other agents to carry on the Lord's works, may guide this and associated Boards and the Mission Council in its management, and may rest graciously and even gloriously on all the Missionaries of Christ and on their Mission field."

Acting on a principle previously adopted, the Board directed Dr. Steel to pay the passage of Mrs. McNair and child to her home in Scotland, where she has probably by this time arrived.

PRINTING OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

Dr. Geddie's return to Australia for the winter was rendered necessary, as explained last year by the state of Mrs. Geddie's health, but his stay there for 15 months without return was arranged that he might superintend the printing of the Old Testament in Aneiteumese. The Dr. and family