

sees much to encourage him, but he is desirous of assistance as the field is large and the work arduous. Mr. R's third child, a daughter, was born shortly after the arrival of the parents in Australia. Mr. R expected to spend a month in visiting congregations of the Presbyterian Church in order to quicken their interest in missions.

#### AS TO THE WORK.

Now and then we find in the letters of our missionaries statements of a despondent and even of a discouraging nature. But this is only what we should expect, that is if our missionaries tell us the truth, and the whole truth. Our own experiences are full of just such discouragements as we refer to, and it would be strange indeed to hear that there were no backsliders among the converts from heathenism. The re-action spoken of in a recent letter from Aniteum was fully anticipated by Rev. Dr. Geddie, the apostle of that island. A similar re-action has been experienced on the Hawaii and in many, perhaps most, other fields. It is only temporary, and by the blessing of God, the lovely isle which was redeemed from the darkest heathenism by the labors of Dr. Geddie and his true yoke-fellow, Rev. John Inglis, will soon rejoice in the receiving showers of divine grace. The New Hebrides are a very important group of islands, and their ultimate evangelization may be most hopefully anticipated. The venerable Dr. Duff called the attention of the Presbyterian Council to their claims, and the Free Church is now in hearty co-operation with our own Church, and our brethren in Australia and New Zealand. The prospect of the New Hebrides Mission is in reality very bright and hopeful.

#### A MEMORIAL CHURCH.

We learn from Rev. Dr. Steel that it is proposed to erect a memorial Church to commemorate the martyrdom of the missionaries of our own Church, and others, who hazarded their lives for the cause of Christ in these distant Isles of the Sea, and who sealed their testimony with their blood. We regret that the printed circular sent to us has been mislaid, but we feel sure that the very mention of this proposal will be enough to commend it to many of our readers who are acquaint-

ed with the history of this, the oldest, and one of the most interesting mission fields of our Church. It was on the island of Erromanga that John Williams, the proto-missionary-martyr of the South Seas met a cruel death many years ago, and here, too, our own beloved missionaries, the elder and the younger Gordons of Prince Edward Island, shared a similar fate. We doubt not there are those among us who would like to have a stone in the Memorial Church. All such are cordially invited to give their contributions either to this office or the Rev. Dr. McGregor, of Halifax, who will forward them to Dr. Steele.—*P. R.*

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#### CHINA.

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The Church of Scotland having resolved to enter upon the mission work in China, a public meeting was recently held in Edinburgh for the purpose of aiding the first band of missionaries God-speed. Dr. J. Elder Cumming, of Glasgow, gave the history of the inception of this mission as follows :

"About a year ago, a member of the Church of Scotland, neither a minister nor an office-bearer of any kind, who had never done any work for the Church, but had been a simple member, was one Sunday evening reading some of Dr. Williamson's writings as to the great need of China for, and the marvellous eagerness of the Chinese to receive, the Scriptures and other holy books; and as he read, there formed in his mind a desire that the Church of Scotland should take up this great field as well as others. He communicated with the Foreign Mission Committee, and stating that he was an unknown man, and did not want his name mentioned, offered to present £500 if the Church of Scotland would take up the scheme. He (Dr. Cumming) was present at the committee, and to him the letter was handed, with a request to see if anything could be made of it. He said he did not think that the Church was likely to take it up, but he communicated with the gentleman, suggesting that if he could, besides his own donation of