

to judge and secure their confidence, and to direct the attention of the several congregations to this matter, and to ask for their liberality in providing a supply to be sent with the Missionary.

A. McLEAN, *Convener*.

### Our Mission Prospects.

A communication has been received from M. H. Robertson now at Aneiteum, to the effect that he purposes returning to Nova Scotia to recruit his health, and to study with a view to be ordained as a missionary in connexion with our Church to the New Hebrides. We may explain that Mr. Robertson has been suffering under sun stroke, but is now recovering, and that he requires removal to his native air to complete his recovery; but that is not all—his cotton agency having ended, he is desirous, with the consent of the missionaries, of being equipped and authorized as a missionary by our Church. He writes—"the missionaries spoke to me at their meeting with a view to entering upon mission work in connexion with your Church, and Dr. Geddie read an extract from Mr. McLean's letter on the same subject, but as the missionaries have no training institution here for young men, I have decided in accordance with the opinion of most if not of all the missionaries to go home to Nova Scotia with a view to be ordained as a missionary, and then return to the New Hebrides to labour among the heathen. For several reasons, I was shut up to this course, and I may mention it was the most agreeable to my own mind. First, the position of a Teacher would not I think be a happy one either for me or the missionaries. Again the missionaries say they cannot take me in for a course of study with a view of ordaining me, as they have not the means of so doing, and lastly my weak state of health; but if the Church will give me encouragement, I intend going home to commence study at once." This is sufficiently explicit. Accordingly our Mission Board, which met last week, resolved gratefully to accept of Mr. Robertson's offer of service, and to enter into communication with him as soon as he arrive here, which may be expected (D. V.) not later than April or May. Of the reasons which led to the decision of the Board the following are the chief. (1.) Mr. Robertson's possessing the language of the natives. He has furnished proof of this in translating an address of one of the chiefs which appeared in our *Record* some time ago, and to his ability in this respect the accompanying documents of Dr. Geddie's bears witness. (2.) His conciliatory manners and frank intercourse with the natives,—and 3rd, his being under the power of Divine grace and love for mission work. As to this last, satisfactory evi-

dence could be afforded if required. Though a good living moral youth and even a communicant, Mr. Robertson was not when he left in the "Day Spring" a converted man; it was while on board the mission ship that he came under the power of serious convictions, which ended through God's grace in his joining himself with God's people, and even ultimately at the missionaries persuasion taking part in their prayer meeting. Since that he has grown rapidly in his desires for usefulness, and frequently lamented his want of sufficient education to qualify him as a missionary. So that in accepting of his offer, we do, we think, what any Church would be glad in our circumstances to do. As to the official capacity in which Mr. Robertson will serve us, we can say nothing at present. He himself adds, "If your Church will not advise me to go on with my studies but are agreed to send me as a lay agent, to be under your committee, I see nothing to prevent me returning as the agent of your Church." So that in either way we have received an acquisition.

And I cannot close without pointing to the ground of thankfulness afforded us in our mission prospects. We have one missionary known and approved of us all who at the call of duty resigns home, and two churches, to labor in one of the South Sea Islands. All honor to him the first the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia have sent to the heathen.

Then we have a lay Christian brother offering himself to be set apart to this work, to him no new work, oft already has he spoken to the natives in their own language of the story of love, and always has his conduct been fitting and right; now that he is about to be clothed with authority and separated for the work, should we not thank God and take courage?

The following document confirms the board in the step they have taken.

A. W. H.

ANEITEUM, May, 28, 1868.

*Minute passed at the annual meeting of the New Hebrides Mission.*

"The Rev. A. McLean, Secretary of the Foreign Mission Committee of the Church of Scotland, Nova Scotia, has asked in a letter to Dr. Geddie, if it would be advisable for this mission to place Mr. Robertson under a course of study here, with a view to ordination. This mission does not see its way clear to pursue the course indicated; but considering Mr. Robertson's christian character, the aptitude which he has shown in acquiring the Aneiteum language, and his kind manner in dealing with the natives, would recommend to that Church, that he should be furnished with every facility for