

at once and most cordially,—the Sec. was instructed to write to Mr Geddie in terms thereof with all convenient despatch. The letter which was prepared accordingly, is now on its way to Aneiteum and the Board confidently hope that a suitable answer will in due course be received.

#### STATE OF FUNDS.

A full statement of accounts with the London Missionary Society, through whom all our monies are remitted, have been received, exhibiting a considerable balance in our favor.

This is accounted for, by the well known circumstance, that the Boat fund remains intact, and moreover, from private letters we learn, that Mr Geddie has not drawn the full amount of his salary for any one year, tho' he does not state particulars. "Our accounts with the mission," says he, "are in a much better state than I would wish them to be—I have not received any supplies from Britain for two years and three months, nor will receive any till the John Williams arrives."

Under these circumstances the Board do not feel justified in referring to any monies in fund beyond what is now in the Synod Treasurer's hands.

At the date of closing accounts for the past year, £338 10s 4d. were in fund, from which the current expenses of another year will fall to be deducted. Your Board are aware however, that considerable sums have been added to the funds since the yearly accounts were closed, so that it must be evident, there is no ground of apprehension as to the comfortable support of two ordained missionaries and their families. The outfit of another missionary would of course lead to large expenditure, but from what has been experienced heretofore, there is no reason to distrust the liberality of the Church with respect to her Foreign Mission. Three Boxes of Goods were sent off last November, the value of which was not ascertained. Two large Boxes, valued at upwards of £20 are now being transmitted, and there is good reason to anticipate that an equal if not greater donation of clothing, sewing material, &c, will leave by the Fall shipping. In letters already published, the great importance of an extensive supply of clothing has been strongly stated, and from still more recent intelligence, we learn that the demand is on the increase. "I thought," says Mrs Geddie, "that at one time, Home made Flannel would not be a very useful article, but lately it has

turned to good account. The demand for clothing has become intense over the whole Island, and I have been much put to in order to meet it. I have been obliged to cut the flannel up the centre lengthwise, and divide it again into pieces about a yard and a half long, each of which makes a covering for one person."

It may not be out of place here to observe, that supplies of another kind are in great request,—viz. printing and school materials. Of these articles, at the date of the letter referred to, there was such a destitution, that the boys had stopped writing for want of paper and pens, and your missionary was gathering up all the scraps of printing paper he could find in order to strike off elementary sheets for the use of the natives.

#### REFERENCE TO SYNOD.

The Board having thus referred to their own action during the past year, would now direct attention to such points as they consider will require the action of this Court. These comprise matters of grave importance, and they will receive, doubtless, the most serious consideration of Synod.

#### SUCCESSOR TO MR ARCHIBALD.

From what has been said it will at once appear that the most claimant demand upon us at present is to provide a successor to Mr Archibald.

On this subject your present missionary gives utterance to a full heart when he says, "Our situation is such as no missionary should be placed in. The Board have undertaken a great responsibility to leave me alone in so arduous a field and at so critical a period to the mission. I trust that they will make vigorous efforts to send another missionary, if they have not done so already. In our solitude, however, we have not been left alone—God has been true to his promise, and we have enjoyed some measure of his presence in our work. Had it not been for His grace and assistance, we must have fainted and become weary long ago." Again, and in a similar strain he says, "Have I your sympathy and that of the Board in my present circumstances? I sometimes think that I have not, at least to the extent that I ought to have it, or how could you have left me years without an associate. I feel distressed to think, that the John Williams, after lying more than a twelvemonth at home, has in all probability left for these islands, without any help. Think of a solitary family more than 1500 miles from