

THE  
**Home and Foreign Record**  
OF  
**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.**

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**SEPTEMBER, 1864.**

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**ARRIVAL OF MR. AND MRS. GEDDIE.**

The past month has been memorable in the history of our Church by the return of the Rev. John Geddle and his devoted wife, after an absence from their native land of nearly eighteen years, and nearly sixteen years of arduous and sometimes perilous missionary labors in the South Seas. Mr. Geddle left Aneiteum in January last for Sydney, from which place he proceeded to Melbourne. In both the Colonies, of which these places are the capitals, we believe his visit has been the means of exciting increased interest in the New Hebrides Mission; and it is likely that the interest begun by Mr. Paton's visit, and shown by the contributions to the mission ship, will assume a more permanent and systematic form by the establishment of a mission from the Presbyterian Churches of Australia among these islands. The Synod of Victoria have already two missions—one among the aborigines of Australia, and one among the Chinese residents; but the question of undertaking a mission to the New Hebrides would come up for consideration at the meeting of the Synod in May last. It was not quite certain that the Synod, as such, would be willing to undertake the mission, but if they did not, the churches in Melbourne were willing, from their own resources, to support missionaries there. In fact, a proposition was made that the Australian Churches should undertake the whole support and charge of the New Hebrides mission. In our number for July we remarked that this was a natural arrangement, and that it might be

expected that it would ultimately be adopted. Present appearances indicate that it may come sooner than any of us anticipated. Mr. Geddle, however, of course could not encourage the idea that our Church would abandon the field entirely.

In the meantime men are urgently needed for the New Hebrides mission. The funds of our Church are overflowing, and we could support more missionaries from our own resources. But here are now the Australian churches, wealthier than ours, ready to support as many as we can send out. From the state of these churches, in a country whose population is increasing with such rapidity, and where there are so many urgent calls at home for ministerial labor as to require them to bring out additional ministers from Scotland every year, it is impossible for them to find the men for a mission to the South Seas; but if the men are provided the churches would provide the means for their support. The Reformed Presbyterian Church have already engaged four young men—two belonging to their own body, one to the Free Church, and one to the U. P. Church. The latter, Mr. Niven, is a son of one of the U. P. missionaries in Jamaica, and is expected to be ready to go out with Mr. Paton. It is also expected that the other three may be ready to go out with Mr. Geddle, when they return next year. It is not certain that these will be all supported by the Reformed Presbyterian Church. It is probable that two of them will be supported by the churches in Melbourne; but such is the spirit of the Foreign Mission Committee of