

ed be the name of the Lord." The immediate relations of the deceased will, the Board feel assured, receive, as they require, the warm sympathy of the Church at large. The sorrow-stricken widow will not only receive her full share of this public sympathy, but this Board will readily acknowledge her peculiar claims to their special oversight. Meanwhile they commend her to God, one of whose titles most amply vindicated in every age is, "A judge of the widow in his holy habitation."

The Board would farther record their deep sense of unfeigned sorrow at the almost incredible loss of life by disease on Erromanga, Tana and Aneiteum—amounting to one-third, and on some settlements to two-thirds, of the population—the fierce hurricane which has swept over Aneiteum with the besom of destruction, severely injuring the church and teachers' institution in Mr. Inglis' district, as well as uprooting plantations and overturning dwellings and school houses in every part of the island—and finally the incendiarism which has consumed the few church and school-house with much valuable mission property in Mr. Geddie's district. In these successive strokes of an afflictive Providence, each of which would of itself call unto mourning, and all, in swift succession, coming wave after wave, like an irresistible flood, threatening to engulf the mission in utter ruin, this Board do but discover the operation of His hands who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in working, who humbly under his mighty hand that he may exalt in due time. Their abiding faith is that to the Churches and their missionaries at home and abroad this fatherly chastisement has been sent both to correct past errors and to prepare for future conquests. Signal trials do not unfrequently, in the all wise arrangements of Divine Providence, prepare the way for signal triumphs. Let united and importunate prayer go forth to secure this most blessed result. Meanwhile let us all ponder the varied and important lessons taught in every aspect of the affliction.

The voice of Jehovah to his servant, suddenly called from his earthly service, was, according to the good hope through grace, "Well done good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make the ruler over many. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." To us all the same voice saith, "Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the heathen. I will be exalted on the earth." What shall be our voice unto Him? "Father, we thank thee, Lord of heaven and earth." "Even so, Father, for so it seemeth good in thy sight." And what shall be our voice, one unto another? In the Churches and Mission families of the New Hebrides, in the Churches of Scotland and Nova Scotia, the voice ought to be one. "Come, let us return to the Lord, for he hath torn and he will heal us, he hath smitten and he will bind us up."

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## FOREIGN MISSIONS.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FOREIGN BOARD.

The Board of Foreign Missions in connection with the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America deem it necessary, in presenting this their first Report to Synod, to pass under review, however briefly, the history of the respective missions formerly under the inspection of the two Churches now happily united.

#### HISTORY OF MISSION ON ANEITEUM.

The Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia first resolved to enter upon the foreign field at the Synod of 1844, when they appointed a Foreign Mission Board. This decisive step was taken after mature deliberation. An overture from the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island had been introduced at the previous Synod and remitted to the several Presbyteries of the Church. It was then generally understood that the main agent in the movement *ab initio* was the Rev. John Geddie, then minister of Cavendish, P. E. I., although the overture was introduced by Dr. Keir, and had been adopted by their Presbytery. Mr. Geddie, who was thus truly